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Dempsey pessimistic about Iraqi army

Top US officer says much of nation's force not adequately trained to help roll back Islamic State's gains

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

PARIS — About half of Iraq's army is incapable of partnering effectively with the U.S. to roll back the Islamic State group's territorial gains in western and northern Iraq, and the other half needs to be partially rebuilt with U.S. training and additional equipment, the top U.S. military officer said Wednesday.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the

INSIDE

■ Militants make moves to blunt effectiveness of strikes

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Joint Chiefs of Staff and a former commander of U.S. training programs in Iraq, said a renewed training effort might revive the issue of gaining legal immunity from Iraqi prosecution for those U.S. troops who

are training the Iraqis. The previous Iraqi government refused to grant immunity for U.S. troops who might have remained as trainers after the U.S. military mission ended in December 2011.

"There will likely be a discussion with the new Iraqi government, as there was with the last one, about whether we need to have" Iraqi lawmakers approve new U.S. training, he said. He didn't describe the full extent of such training but said it would be limited and he believed Iraq

would endorse it.

"This is about training them in protected locations and then enabling them" with unique U.S. capabilities such as intelligence, aerial surveillance and air power, as well as U.S. advisers, so they can "fight the fight" required to push the Islamic State militants back into Syria, Dempsey said. He spoke with a small group of reporters traveling with him to Paris to meet with

SEE DEMPSEY ON PAGE 8

Are US forces in Europe about to receive a REPRIEVE?

Breedlove: Drawdown plan needs to be reconsidered
in light of Russia's moves against Ukraine | Page 4

F-15 Eagle fighter jets assigned to the 48th Fighter Wing taxi down the runway before takeoff on Aug. 15 at RAF Lakenheath, England. The Air Force's plans to retire 21 F-15s overseas could be put on hold due to Russian aggression in Ukraine.

ERIN O'SHEA/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

MLB

2 division titles
in one night for
Beltway teams

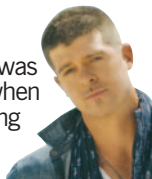
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FACES

Thicke says he was
blurry himself when
recording hit song

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EUROPE

UK's nuke subs might
be forced to relocate if
Scots pick independence

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Military: Army revamps controversial appearance regulations » Page 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every day I woke up, I would take a Vicodin to start the day and then I would fill up a water bottle with vodka and drink it before and during my interviews."

— Singer Robin Thicke, in a recently unsealed April deposition, on his state of mind while singing and then promoting "Blurred Lines."

See story on Page 15

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Soldier flying home to surprise family in Texas dies en route
2. Retired general says political correctness is deadly to US
3. Army revamps appearance regulations after controversy
4. Burger King wants vet's Hawaii base needle burger lawsuit dismissed
5. Officials: Air Force cuts in Europe might be delayed

COMING SOON

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Good reads for the fall



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MILITARY

Regulation re-do

Army updates controversial grooming standards released earlier this year

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army dialed back some controversial rules on tattoos and women's hairstyles in an update on Tuesday to the regulation governing appearance and uniform wear.

In March, the Army issued a heavily revised Army Regulation 670-1, a move that spurred grumbling in the ranks and a protest on Capitol Hill with newly restrictive language about a number of appearance issues.

The more stringent tattoo policy issued in March remains largely unchanged, retaining the limits on the size, number and location of tattoos. Full sleeve tattoos are still banned, for instance, and no more than four small tattoos can be visible on lower arms and legs. The rules were meant, the Army said in news release Tuesday, "to maintain the professional appearance of the force."

While tattoos in violation of rules issued in March could be grandfathered, soldiers with grandfathered tattoos couldn't seek a commission or appointment without receiving a special exception. That changed Tuesday.

"The updated regulation takes into account that previously authorized tattoos should not prevent a soldier from becoming an officer, but that candidates are to be evaluated based on the whole soldier concept, or all characteristics of a soldier," the Army said.

The new regulation also makes clear that soldiers can't add to grandfathered tattoos on parts of the body, such as lower arms and legs, where tattoos are unacceptable for new recruits.

Tattoos on the face, neck and hands, as well as those that express racist, sexist, indecent or extremist messages, remain forbidden.

The updated regulation also clarifies requirements for body mutilation or modification, specifying that plastic surgery and other medically approved changes to the body are acceptable. And, the regulation says, troops who entered the army with approved mutilations — a bifurcated tongue, for example — before April 2014 can seek a waiver.

Although the Army said the March revisions had been developed by a cross-section of Army personnel, including black women, the language of the rules for women's hair brought immediate charges of insensitivity.

In a letter to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel that followed, the Congressional Black Caucus declared "the use of words like 'unkempt' and 'matted' when referring to traditional hairstyles worn by women of color are offensive and biased."

Hagel ordered the Army and other services to review their policies, and announced last month regulation changes were coming.

The new Army regulation moves the offending words, which were used to describe dreadlocks. But dreadlocks — newly defined as "any permanently twisted, or locked coils or ropes of hair (or extensions) or hair tangled closely together" — remain forbidden in the Army. The new revision also tones down a paragraph that laid down the law on women's hairstyles, removing discussion of bans on "locks and twists (not including French rolls/twists or corn rows)" and cutting out two

Defense contractors hacked by Chinese

WASHINGTON — China's military hacked into computer networks of civilian transportation companies hired by the Pentagon at least nine times, breaking into computers aboard a commercial

ship, targeting logistics companies and uploading malicious software onto an airline's computers, Senate investigators said Wednesday.

A yearlong investigation announced by the Senate Armed Services Committee identified at least 20 break-ins or other unsus-

Army hairstyle changes

Previous (March 31, 2014)

New (September 2014)

Temporary two-strand twists not authorized,	Temporary two-strand twists authorized,
Size of braids or cornrows must be small in diameter (approximately 1 1/4 inch).	Size of braids, cornrows, and twists may be no more than 1/2 inch.
Ends secured using inconspicuous rubber bands.	Must be secured inconspicuously (removes requirement for rubber band use).
Braids must start at the front of head and go straight back.	Braids, cornrows, and twists (when worn against the scalp) must follow the natural direction of the hair when worn back, which is either in general straight lines following the shape of the head or flowing with the natural direction of the hair when worn back with one primary part of the hair (no sharply curved lines or zigzag lines).
Dreadlocks are not authorized and are defined as any matted, twisted or locked coils or ropes of hair (or extensions). Braids or cornrows that are unkempt or matted are considered dreadlocks and are not authorized.	Dreadlocks or locks are not authorized and are defined as any permanently twisted or locked coils or ropes of hair (or extension) or hair tangled closely together.
Bun size (measured from the scalp) may not exceed 3 inches or be wider than the head. The bulk of hair may not exceed 2 inches.	Bun size (measured from the scalp) may not exceed 3 1/2 inches or be wider than the head. The bulk of hair may not exceed 2 inches.
Term "neat" is not in the glossary.	Term "neat" is defined in the glossary as "orderly and tidy in appearance."
Term "conservative" is defined in the glossary as "traditional in style."	Term "conservative" is defined in the glossary as "conventional, traditional, and moderate in style and appearance; not extreme, excessive, faddish, or intense."
Ponytails may be worn during physical training in physical fitness uniforms.	Ponytails may be worn during physical training in physical fitness uniforms. Authorized hairstyles (such as braids and twists) may also be worn in a ponytail using the same guidance.
Wigs are authorized and must look natural and conform to the uniform regulation.	Wigs are authorized and must look natural and conform to the uniform regulation. Wigs may not be worn to cover up unauthorized hairstyles.

SOURCE: U.S. Army

Stars and Stripes

references to braids.

But there are some substantive changes to hairstyle rules as well. The policy now authorizes temporary, two-strand hair twists for women. The maximum diameter of braids and cornrows has also been increased to a half-inch, and the requirement that no more than one-eighth of an inch of scalp be visible between braids has been removed.

Among other changes: Soldiers can now wear certain health gad-

gets — activity trackers, pedometers and heart rate monitors — with Army uniforms.

Also, soldiers can wear the "next of kin" lapel pin on their service and dress uniforms. The pin is for the immediate family of military members killed on active duty or while on drill status in the National Guard or an Army Reserve unit.

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documents, user accounts and computer codes. They said it compromised systems aboard a commercial ship contracted by Transcom for logistics routes, and hacked into an airline the U.S. military used.

From The Associated Press



Happy Birthday United States Air Force

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WAR/MILITARY

Afghanistan forces prep for results of election

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's disputed election process has dragged on for nearly 5½ months and police Col. Sangar Khil is tired of it.

"The whole nation has hated it," he said, before sighing loudly and taking a sip of hot tea. "We are tired of the security situation and are looking forward to the election being resolved." Sitting across from Khil in the basement of the Nangarhar provincial police headquarters, U.S. Army Maj. Cullen Jones nods in agreement.

"We're as excited as you are for this to be resolved," he tells Khil.

With the government poised to officially announce the vote tally, however, Afghan and international security officials are preparing for another uptick in violence, both from insurgent groups bent on undermining the process as well as from potentially disgruntled political factions unhappy with the results.

The drawn-out review of the election results and continuing post-election negotiations between the two presidential candidates have divided the entire country, hurting business, driving insurgent attacks and sparking concerns over civil unrest. The campaigns of former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani and former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah say they expect a breakthrough in the negotiations as soon as next week. But amid allegations of widespread fraud, there have been growing concerns of unrest if supporters of the losing candidate feel the U.N.-supervised audit of disputed ballots was unfair.

The Afghan national security forces faced a bloody summer of fighting insurgents as international troops withdrew. The election impasse added to the sense of uncertainty. Ministry of Interior officials say that across



JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

An Afghan uniformed policeman mans a checkpoint along the highway between Kabul and Wardak province during the runoff presidential vote on June 14.



'This nation is tired of civil war. But we are waiting to see what happens when they announce the results. God willing there will be peace.'

Afghan police Col. Sangar Khil on security plans for the announcement of the Afghan election results

Afghanistan more than 1,500 policemen died and another 2,500 were injured in the past six months alone.

During the two rounds of voting, Afghan security forces were able to prevent major attacks, but they reported above-average violence around the country.

In Nangarhar, Khil said, he has coordinated the formation of a joint police quick-reaction force that will be ready to respond to any incidents in the region when the election results are released. Afghan National Army units have been placed in reserve, and police are also boosting the number of checkpoints around major targets like Jalalabad city.

For police in restive Nangarhar and neighboring areas, it has been nonstop work. Top staff have not been allowed to take leave

"This nation is tired of civil war," Khil said. "But we are waiting to see what happens when they announce the results. God willing there will be peace."

For police in restive Nangarhar and neighboring areas, it has been nonstop work. Top staff have not been allowed to take leave

since before the first round of voting at the beginning of April.

"I was so busy during the election days that I did not have time to eat or drink," said police 1st Lt. Shir Rachman, who leads a three-man explosive ordnance disposal team responsible for helping clear roadside bombs in much of the province. "I kept telling them, 'I am only human.'"

As an adviser with the 101st Airborne Division, Jones said while election security efforts have been planned, led and executed by Afghan forces, international troops have given suggestions.

"We've encouraged them to look at all the different contingencies and have forces ready," he said. Among those suggestions was to develop the quick-reaction force, a form of which the advisers are hoping to make permanent.

"The Afghans are navigating the messy process of democracy independently," Jones said. "We're here to focus on the small things that will boost their capabilities."

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Budget bailout sought by Afghans

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's central government is nearly broke and needs a \$537 million bailout from the United States and other international donors within "five or six days" to continue paying its bills, a senior Afghan finance official said Tuesday.

Crippled by a growing budget shortfall, the Afghan government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars of easily accessible reserve funds this year, said Abhaj M. Agra, the director general of the treasury at the Ministry of Finance.

The government was barely able to cover its September payroll for more than 500,000 national and provincial employees, he added. And with its October payroll deadlines approaching, Agra said the country's financial challenges are now "critical."

Officials blame the financial woes on the ongoing stalemate over who won the election to replace outgoing President Hamid Karzai.

If additional money is not allocated, Agra said, the government will have to begin deferring payment of bills for items ranging from fuel for government vehicles to official stationery. The fiscal crisis could also hamper the government's ability to feed more than 350,000 Afghan soldiers and police, Agra said. Salaries for police and army personnel are not at risk because they are paid with funds that come directly from the U.S.-led coalition.

US-contracted carrier to stop flying over Iran

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

The company whose flight from Afghanistan was forced to land in Iran with nearly 100 Americans on board earlier this month says it will stop flying over Iranian airspace.

DFS Middle East, which provides flights for various civilian personnel involved in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, made the announcement Wednesday in a notice to customers alerting them of a ticket price increase.

DFS cited a handful of reasons for what will amount to an \$85 jump in the price of a one-way ticket between Afghanistan and Dubai beginning Tuesday. The company said its fuel costs in Afghanistan have jumped more than 140 percent this year because of changes in contractual arrangements and sponsorship agreements under which it serves U.S. and international Security Assistance Force bases in Afghanistan.

stan. The company also said it's paying an additional \$300,000 a month in fees because of an "operational surcharge" levied on all charter flights from Dubai to Afghanistan.

DFS did not elaborate on the contractual or sponsorship changes. The company also did not explain who was levying surcharges on Afghanistan-bound flights, though it is most likely the Afghan government, which has feuded frequently with contractors working for or on behalf of the U.S.-led military alliance in the country.

The trigger for the price increase, though, appears to be the Sept. 5 incident in which a Boeing 737 carrying some 140 people from the American base at Bagram Air Field in eastern Afghanistan to Dubai was forced by Iranian officials to land in the Iranian city of Bandar Abbas.

The U.S. State Department said the plane was forced to land due to a "bureaucratic issue." DFS said in its statement Wednesday

that the flight was diverted "for an unspecified reason which was an uncomfortable situation for our passengers, the airline and everyone involved."

The plane took off three hours later and landed in Dubai without incident.

The plane carried the logo of low-cost carrier FlyDubai; a spokeswoman for DFS said she wasn't at liberty to explain the arrangement between DFS and FlyDubai, noting that the latter had yet to release a statement on the matter.

Contract flights carrying American civilian personnel between Afghanistan and Dubai have typically flown over Iran because it is the most direct route between the two countries and generally no riskier than alternatives. Other options are to fly a more southerly route over Pakistan or a circuitous northerly route that is at least three times the distance and could include transiting Iraqi and Syrian airspace.



Stars and Stripes/AP

The DFS spokeswoman said the company planned to fly over Pakistan, which increases flight time and fuel costs compared to the

route over Iran.

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EUROPE

Officials: AF cuts in Europe may be delayed

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Planned cuts to the U.S. military presence in Europe may be postponed because of concerns about Russian aggression, according to top defense officials.

The commander of U.S. Forces in Europe, Gen. Philip Breedlove, told reporters Tuesday at the Pentagon that plans to scale down the Air Force presence in Europe were made before Russian moves against Ukraine. He said he had talked to Pentagon leaders about the issue and "I see this building now moving towards a review of those decisions."

Defense Department leaders have been pulling troops out of Europe in recent years in the face of fiscal pressures and force requirements in other parts of the world.

In March, the Air Force announced it intended to retire 21 F-15C fighter jets based overseas in fiscal 2015 due to budget constraints. There are 21 F-15Cs assigned

RAF Lakenheath, England, and the cuts were expected to come from there.

But on Tuesday, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said she hopes



Breedlove

President Barack Obama requested \$1 billion from Congress for a European Reassurance Initiative to calm America's Eastern European allies who fear a resurgent Russia, and the Air Force knows how it wants to spend some of it.

"We would propose monies in order to keep those F-15s ... in Europe for an additional year," James told reporters on the sidelines of an Air Force Association conference in National Harbor, Md.

But she suggested that the aircraft could remain there longer. "This is another year coming and another [budget] proposal which could be made. So ... we could see where we are a year from now," she told reporters.

Moscow annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine earlier this year, and has been supporting pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine with troops, weapons and other forms of assistance.

Breedlove said there are four Russian battalion task groups inside Ukraine, despite a declared cease-fire between the Ukrainian military and the rebels. The EUCOM chief described the cease-fire as "tenuous."

The Russians have been removing force-

es to the east of the Ukrainian border back into Russia, he said, "but make no mistake — those forces are close enough to be quickly brought back to bear if required."

When asked if he would like to see more forces sent to Europe on a permanent basis, Breedlove dismissed the idea.

"I'm a realist. We are in an age where our budgets are going down, not up. I do not expect and would not spend a lot of energy asking for force structure to move back to Europe."

Breedlove hopes that temporary troop rotations on the Continent can enable EUCOM to meet the growing demand for U.S. forces.

In recent months, the U.S. has deployed air and ground assets to Poland and the Baltic states for bilateral and multilateral training exercises. More troop rotations are scheduled this fall.

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UK's nuclear subs may need new home if Scots vote 'yes'

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Britain will have to seek alternative locations for its nuclear submarines should Scotland vote for independence Thursday if NATO is to maintain a nuclear deterrent with more than just U.S. firepower.

Britain has no existing infrastructure capable of meeting the security requirements for hosting nuclear warheads and the submarines that can fire them except for the Scottish base in Faslane, experts say.

"The problem is, there are no easy alternatives," said Angus Ross, a retired Royal Navy commander and professor at the U.S. Naval War College.

For more than 40 years, the United Kingdom has been leasing nuclear missiles from the U.S. — first U.S.-built Polaris missiles and later the current Trident class — for a small fleet of nuclear submarines that call the west coast of Scotland home. While France is also a nuclear power, it does not commit any nuclear capabilities to NATO and is not on the alliance's nuclear Planning Group, which sets NATO's nuclear deterrence policy.

The U.K. maintains four Trident-armed subs at Faslane, and the warheads are stored roughly 8 miles away at a separate facility. At least one submarine is on patrol at any given time, serving as the U.K.'s on-the-ready nuclear deterrent.

If Scotland votes for independence in Thursday's referendum, and makes good on its promise to order out the Trident by 2020, London will have to find a facility that can meet all of the security and maintenance requirements for handling and storing nuclear weapons. The site also must be close to a deep-water port where the Vanguard-class submarines can operate.

There is not another site that is easily developed and easily accessible from a military base that



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A Trident II D-5 ballistic missile is launched from the USS West Virginia during a test. The U.K. leases nuclear missiles from the U.S., including Tridents, which are used by British submarines based in Scotland.

currently exists," Ross said.

Numerous experts who have testified before Britain's Parliament have also said it would take 10 to 20 years to build a replacement facility. Once a site was found, there would be a lengthy approval process before construction could start.

The cost of replacing Faslane and a storage site somewhere else in Britain hasn't been calculated, but government officials have said it would easily cost several billion dollars.

"It would probably be expensive to the point where you would say you couldn't do it," Ross said. "The cost of nuclear handling facilities in the world we live in today is prohibitively high, and in this day of stringent budgets, that would also be a problem."

In theory, the U.K. could look to allies to play host. But such a move would pose logistical problems and raise political questions about the independence of the British nuclear deterrent.

If Scotland votes "yes" on independence, Scottish leaders have vowed to make their country nuclear-free within four years.

That's a problem for the rest of the United Kingdom, which bases its entire deployed nuclear arsenal at Faslane near the mouth of the River Clyde in southwestern Scotland.



SOURCES: Royal United Services Institute, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

GRIFF WYTHE AND RICHARD JOHNSON
THE WASHINGTON POST

'If you upset the nuclear deterrent, NATO will take a dim view of membership.'

Angus Ross
retired Royal Navy commander

The U.S.-made submarines routinely go to the Navy's submarine base at Kings Bay, Ga., for maintenance.

"However, basing in the U.S. is not a credible long-term option," says a report by the London-based Royal United Services Institute, titled "Relocation, Relocation, Relocation."

"One of the primary purposes of the U.K. nuclear force is to provide some insurance against a scenar-

io where, for whatever reason, the U.S. is not willing to come to the U.K.'s defence against a nuclear threat," the report continues. "A decision to rely on a U.S. operating base would clearly undermine the credibility of the U.K. nuclear force in this scenario."

Locations in France are a possibility, but many of the same strategic concerns would exist as basing in the U.S.

Scotland could still reverse

course and allow the submarines to stay. While nuclear weapons are deeply unpopular among the population, Scotland has said it intends to apply for NATO membership if it gains independence. That effort might be compromised if it takes steps that disrupt NATO's nuclear strategy.

"The Scottish do believe that moving into an alliance like NATO and EU is a forgone conclusion — well actually not so in NATO's case," Ross said. "If you upset the nuclear deterrent, NATO will take a dim view of membership."

If Scotland opts for independence, Britain will need to negotiate a deal that at least allows the Trident to remain in place until there is a viable alternative, which will probably take longer than the deadline set by Scotland for their removal in 2020.

"In order to reach such an agreement, the Scottish government would have to make clear that it had no intention of forcibly denuclearising the U.K.," the RUSI report said. "As a result, it would need to be willing in principle to give the U.K. the opportunity and time that it needed to relocate its nuclear force to alternative operating bases."

Still, the loss of the base in Scotland would leave NATO wholly dependent on Britain's nuclear capabilities.

The U.S. maintains tactical nuclear weapons on European soil and has a large fleet of nuclear submarines on constant patrol.

But at a time when the U.S. is pressuring allies to increase defense spending, which has been on the decline for years now, Washington isn't eager to assume all of the responsibility in NATO.

"Of course we could manage, but it doesn't behoove the U.S. to be the only one in the alliance," Ross said. "They've always welcomed spreading the load, and burden-sharing is a hot topic in NATO right now."

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WAR/MILITARY

Marine killed in Afghanistan

Foggo nominated to lead 6th Fleet, Pentagon says

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A Marine was killed while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan, the Defense Department said Wednesday.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, Va., died Monday in Herat province, the Defense Department said. Strong was a critical skills operator assigned to the 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., according to a biography provided by the Marines.

Capt. Barry Morris, a Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command spokesman, said he could not provide details about when Strong deployed to Afghanistan on his most recent mission. No other details about Strong's death were provided.

The International Security Assistance Force said in a press release Tuesday that a coalition servicemember had been killed by an insider attack. However, the statement did not identify the servicemember or his nationality.

"We can confirm one International Security Assistance Force member died as a result of an individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform turning his weapon against ISAF members in western Afghanistan yesterday," the statement said.

'It is with a heavy heart that MARSOC announces the passing of one of our Marines. He was a consummate professional, who upheld our warrior ethos each and every day. Our heartfelt condolences, thoughts and prayers are with his family.'

Capt. Barry Morris

Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command spokesman

Afghan officials and ISAF were reviewing the incident, the statement said.

Strong enlisted in 2003, the same year he graduated from Nansemond River High School in Suffolk, Va. He was promoted to sergeant in 2007 and joined Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command in December.

"It is with a heavy heart that MARSOC announces the passing of one of our Marines. He was a consummate professional, who upheld our warrior ethos each and every day. Our heartfelt condolences, thoughts and prayers are with his family as they mourn the loss of their loved one," Morris said.

According to his biography, Strong was part of Marine Special Operations Team 8214.

In 2011, Strong deployed to Afghanistan as a team leader and navigator for all logistical mounted patrols. After that deployment Strong began training for and applied for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command Assessment & Selection. Once chosen, he completed and graduated from the individual training course on December 6.

Prior to that, he had deployed to Iraq twice. In 2005, he was there as a motor transport operator. In 2006, he deployed there as the only vehicle recovery operator for his battalion and supporting units.

Strong's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The president on Wednesday nominated a submariner as the new commander of Navy fleet operations in Europe and Africa.

Rear Adm. James G. Foggo III will return to Naples, Italy, for the second time in his career to lead the Navy's 6th Fleet and local NATO Maritime forces, pending confirmation from Congress. Foggo was also nominated for promotion to vice admiral.

He will replace Vice Adm. Philip S. Davidson, who has been tapped for promotion to admiral and commander of Fleet Forces Command in Virginia less than a year after assuming the job of leading the fleet in Naples.

During Foggo's previous tour in Naples, as submarine group commander and deputy fleet commander, he served as operations officer for the U.S. joint task force that conducted airstrikes against Libya in 2011.

Foggo is currently serving as assistant deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans and strategy in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C.

The fleet's area of responsibility

stretches across much of the Western Hemisphere, covering all of Europe and Africa and including the Atlantic and Indian oceans. The region is home to




Foggo

conflict flash points in Ukraine, North Africa and the Levant. The past year has been a particularly busy one for the fleet, with threatened strikes in Syria, support of special operations in north Africa and an increased presence in the Black Sea and Baltics following Russian aggression in Ukraine.

The position includes several other roles related to NATO and the larger U.S. command of naval forces in the region. They include commander, Task Force Six; commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO; deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and Joint Force Maritime Component Commander Europe, Naples.

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THE NEW SANNO

VETERANS

Doctor: VA overlooked link between wait times, deaths

By HEATH DRUZIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — At a heated Congressional hearing Wednesday, two doctors said patient deaths can be linked to delays in care at VA medical centers, a starkly different view than the one painted by an increasingly controversial inspector general's report.

The VA health-care scandal took its latest troubling turn at a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, where two VA whistleblowers sat next to acting VA Inspector General Richard Griffin as they picked apart his office's report, which found no link between delayed care and patient deaths.

"As a physician reading this report, I disagree," Katherine Mitchell, medical director of the Phoenix VA Health Care System's Iraq and Afghanistan Post-Deployment Center, said in her

testimony.

In submitted written testimony, Mitchell went further: "I believe the OIG case review overlooked actual and potential causal relationships between health care delays and veteran deaths."

Mitchell was joined by retired Phoenix VA doctor Samuel Foote, the whistleblower who helped expose the scandal that led to the resignation of former VA secretary Eric Shinewski and calls for massive reforms and the firing of officials.

At the hearing, Foote said the VA IG's office used a report on care at VA hospitals as damage control, rather than using it to get to the bottom of major deficiencies in the system. Calling the IG report a "whitewash," Foote said patient deaths could be linked to delays in care.

"I would like to use this statement to comment on what I view as the foot-dragging, downplay-

ing and frankly, inadequacy of the Inspector General's Office," Foote said, saying the report was "designed to minimize the scandal and protect perpetrators."

The IG investigation found substantial problems in the VA health care system and "ethical lapses" among VA's senior leadership, but stopped short of linking patient deaths to delays in care.

"It's very difficult to know how someone died," Dr. John Daigh, an assistant inspector general who helped draft the report said in defending his findings. "I'm not clairvoyant."

Griffin vigorously defended his office's handling of the investigation and rejected charges that VA officials influenced his report.

"We are scrupulous about our independence and take pride in the performance of our mission," he said.

At one point Griffin and committee chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., engaged in a heated discussion, with Miller banging his gavel to stop Griffin from speaking.

"You want the truth?" Griffin



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Richard J. Griffin, acting inspector general for the Department of Veterans Affairs, testifies before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday. At right are medical doctors Samuel Foote and Katherine Mitchell both of whom testified of inadequate care at the Phoenix VA Health Care System.

shot back.

"You are out of order," Miller said.

In recent months Foote and current and former VA employees have brought to light a system where patients languished for months without care, some waiting for potentially life-saving procedures, and where appearances were put above medical care.

In response to the revelations, Congress passed a \$17 billion bill enabling the VA to hire more doctors and nurses and making it easier to fire underperforming

officials.

The Phoenix system has become a poster child for VA dysfunction, with officials accused of manipulating data to cover up long wait times in order to receive higher bonuses.

The committee has also requested testimony from Sharon Helman, the director of the Phoenix VA Health Care System, who has taken heavy criticism for her role in the scandal, but she did not appear at the hearing.

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VA announces boost to pay scales for doctors, dentists

By JENNIFER HLAD

Stars and Stripes

Veterans Affairs doctors and dentists could earn \$20,000 to \$35,000 more a year as part of new VA Secretary Bob McDonald's plan to recruit and retain more providers for veterans, the VA announced Wednesday.

The VA has proposed the updated pay tables for doctors and dentists who provide care for veterans, but said the pay scale for physicians in leadership roles will not change.

The VA's press release said that the pay increase would be for incoming doctors and dentists, and the VA did not immediately respond Wednesday to questions about who will qualify for the change.

McDonald foreshadowed the announcement Monday in San Diego, saying the VA needs to hire more doctors, nurses and clinicians and to "pay competitively" based on performance and experience to keep the new hires from leaving.

Competitive salaries are more important than ever for the VA, as the U.S. is in the midst of a doctor shortage that is expected to keep growing, reaching a national shortage of 130,600 doctors by 2025, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Medical schools have increased enrollment to meet the demand, but federally funded residency training programs remain in short supply because of a Congressionally mandated cap, according to the association. McDonald recently began a nationwide recruiting campaign in which he is visiting medical schools to tell new doctors why they should consider working for the VA.

As of Sept. 5, he said, the Veterans Health Administration had reduced the electronic waiting lists by 57 percent.

"At VA, we have a noble and inspiring mission: to serve veterans, their survivors and dependents," McDonald said in a written statement Wednesday. "We are committed to hiring more medical professionals across the country to better serve veterans and expand their access to timely, high-quality care."

Dr. Carolyn Clancy, the interim under secretary for health, said in a written statement that more competitive salaries will allow the VA to "attract and hire the best and brightest to treat veterans."

The VA has also begun collaborating with nursing schools, partnering with the DOD and the services to recruit health care professionals when they leave active-duty service, expanding a program to hire combat medics and corpsmen as clinicians, and improving the credentialing process for VA and DOD health care providers, according to a VA press release.

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MILITARY

Imprisoned WikiLeaks source issues critique on Iraq

The Washington Post

The simmering debate about the evolving U.S. military strategy in Iraq and Syria was joined on Tuesday by an unlikely pundit: Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning.

Manning, a former U.S. intelligence analyst convicted last year of leaking classified U.S. information to the secretive group WikiLeaks, argues in a new piece for the Guardian newspaper that the United States cannot defeat the Islamic State militant group by bombing them, but should focus on containing them instead.

The piece says only that the writer, who joined the Army as a man known as Bradley Manning, was "in Fort Leavenworth," and does not mention her conviction or passing of military secrets. In a separate piece, the Guardian reports Tuesday that "Manning wrote the Guardian article in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where she is in military custody."

Manning's piece was published as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared on Capitol Hill for a hearing

'Let Isis succeed in setting up a failed 'state' — in a contained area and over a long enough period of time to prove itself unpopular and unable to govern.'

Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning
writing in the Guardian newspaper

on the U.S. Strategy against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Conversely, Manning argues in her piece that the Islamic State should be allowed to set up its

own region to control. Doing so is a stated goal for the militants, who want to establish a caliphate, a state under the control of strict Islamist law.

"Let Isis succeed in setting up a failed 'state' — in a contained area and over a long enough period of time to prove itself unpopular and unable to govern," Manning argues, using an abbreviation to refer to the Islamic State.

Manning argues for the U.S. to pursue other initiatives. They include countering the narrative the militants have pushed in online recruitment videos and setting up clear, temporary borders that would "discourage Isis from taking certain territory where humanitarian crises might be created."

Destroyer's commanding officer relieved of duty

By LAUREN KING
The Virginian-Pilot

The commander of the guided missile destroyer James E. Williams has been relieved of duty while an investigation into the command climate is completed, according to the Navy.

Capt. Anthony L. Simmons relieved Cmdr. Curtis B. Calloway at sea today, according to a news release from U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Calloway, former James E. Williams Executive Officer Cmdr. Ed Handley and Command Master Chief Travis Biswell have



Calloway

all been assigned to the staff at Naval Surface Force Atlantic pending the outcome of the investigation.

The Norfolk-based destroyer left on May 30 for an eight-month deployment.

They have been participating in security operations, exercises and operations in conjunction with U.S. Africa Command.

Whistleblower settles lawsuit for nearly \$1M

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man who alerted the U.S. Department of Defense to a Humvee manufacturing change that could potentially put soldiers at risk has won nearly \$1 million after settling his whistleblower lawsuit.

David McIntosh lost his job at M.K. Battery in 2007 after he called defense officials to warn them the manufacturing process on Humvees gun turrets had changed. He said the change cut the life span on the battery that turned the turret by about half, which could result in fatal consequences for soldiers involved in a gun fight in Iraq.

McIntosh tried to persuade his employer to tell the Army about the change and after 14 months called the Defense Department himself and was fired for insubordination.

The Star Tribune said M.K. Battery has denied the batteries' owners don't meet the required specifications.

From The Associated Press

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Dempsey: Iraq's new leader thankful for airstrikes, doesn't want foreign ground troops

FROM FRONT PAGE

his French counterpart to discuss cooperation in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq and other issues.

But in Baghdad, Iraq's new prime minister said Wednesday that foreign ground troops are neither necessary nor wanted in his country's fight against the Islamic State group, rejecting the idea a day after Dempsey told members of Congress that he could see recommending that American forces be used if current efforts to combat the extremists fail.

In his first interview with foreign media since taking office Sept. 8, Haider al-Abadi told The Associated Press that U.S. airstrikes have been helpful in the country's efforts to roll back the Sunni militant group, but stressed that putting foreign boots on the ground "is not the question."

"Not only is it not necessary," he said, "We don't want them. We won't allow them. Full stop."

French military surveillance aircraft on Monday began flying intelligence-gathering flights over northern Iraq in support of the effort to counter the Islamic State forces, and a French official said that those flights will be conducted daily for an indefinite period. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss intelligence matters by name.

The French government has said it would be willing to participate more broadly in military action against the Islamic State in Iraq but it has not yet conducted airstrikes.

The bolstering of Iraqi security forces is one element in a multifaceted campaign plan that President Barack Obama was briefed on Wednesday in Tampa, Fla., when he met with Gen. Lloyd Austin, head of U.S. Central Command, which manages U.S.

military operations and relations across the Middle East.

Dempsey said U.S. military teams that spent much of the summer in Iraq assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the Iraqi security forces concluded that 26 of 50 army brigades were capable partners for the U.S. He described them as well led and well equipped, adding, "They appear to have a national instinct, instead of a sectarian instinct." He said the 24 other brigades were too heavily weighted with Shiites to be part of a credible national force.

Sectarianism has been a major problem for the Iraqi security forces for years and is in part a reflection of resentments that built up during the decades of rule under Saddam Hussein, who repressed the majority Shiite population, and the unleashing of reprisals against Sunnis after U.S. forces toppled him in April 2003. Sunni resistance led to the relatively brief rise of an extremist group called al-Qaida in Iraq, led by the late Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. That group withered but re-emerged as the Islamic State organization, which capitalized on Sunni disenchantment with the Shiite government in Baghdad.

Adding to the problem, Shiite militias have been given a lot of latitude by the Iraqi central government to beat back the Islamic State surge.

According to a report in The New York Times, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, once a leading militia of U.S. forces in Iraq, is now the largest and most formidable of the Iranian-backed Shiite militias that dominate Baghdad.

That means Asaib Ahl al-Haq, who once numbered among those the U.S. delicately called "special groups," and the U.S. military are now fighting on the same side, though each insists they will not work together.

Militants quickly adjust tactics to blunt airstrikes' effectiveness

By DAVID S. CLOUD
Los Angeles Times

Militants in Iraq are seeking to blunt the effectiveness of U.S. airstrikes by dispersing their forces into urban areas and increasingly adopting terror tactics such as suicide attacks and bombings, says a senior American military officer.

"What we've seen so far is a lot of the blue flags have come down a lot of the convoys have dispersed, a lot of the assembly areas have been moved into urban areas," Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a small group of reporters Tuesday. "We've seen an increase in the number of improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks."

The shift in tactics by Islamic

State militants in Iraq comes less than a month after the U.S. began airstrikes. Iraqi and Kurdish troops with backing from U.S. advisers are seeking to eject an increasingly shadowy enemy from towns and cities while defending against attacks.

Dempsey said the dispersal of militants into urban areas will make it "a little tougher" for U.S. warplanes to target them. In more than 160 airstrikes, U.S. aircraft and armed drones have attacked large convoys of vehicles and groups of fighters displaying black flags that made them easily identifiable from the air.

Dempsey spoke to reporters as he headed to Paris for talks about Iraq with French officials. France has said it would consider joining



HADI MIZBAN/AP

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Wednesday foreign ground troops are neither necessary nor wanted in his country's fight against the Islamic State group.

But the power and autonomy of Asaib Ahl al-Haq and other Shiite militias also pose a central challenge to the creation of a more just and less sectarian Iraqi government, the Times wrote. Obama has said that the new American military offensive depends on such an inclusive Iraqi government, to undercut the appeal of the Sunni extremists and avoid American entanglement in a sectarian war.

And while many Iraqi Shiites view the militias as their protectors, many in the Sunni minority say they fear the groups as agents of Iran, empowered by the Baghdad government to kill with impunity.

After a decade of support from Iran and a new flood of recruits amid the Islamic State crisis, the Shiite militias are also now arguably more powerful than the Iraqi security forces, the Times reported, limiting the ability of any new government to rein them in.

"The militias have [an] even bigger role now that they are said to be fighting ISIS," Alla Maki, a Sunni lawmaker, told the Times. "Who will control them? We have no real Iraqi Army."

the U.S. in carrying out airstrikes in Iraq.

As hundreds of additional U.S. troops move in to advise and train Iraqi forces, the Pentagon is planning to widen the types of targets it hits from the air, focusing on Islamic State leaders, he said.

"I think you'll see the aperture open a little bit... whether it's fixed facilities, whether it's high-value individuals. That is the next step," Dempsey said, referring to broader targets the Pentagon will be allowed to strike once President Barack Obama and Iraq approve the war plan.

The U.S. is also hoping to nail down specific contributions to the military effort from Iraq's neighbors, which have promised to join the fight against Islamic State.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Obama briefed by CENTCOM, insists no ground war in Iraq

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

President Barack Obama received a briefing on updated war plans Wednesday as the U.S. military prepares to go on the offensive against Islamic State militants.

"We're going to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. ... We mean what we say: Our reach is long; if you threaten America you will find no safe haven," Obama told troops at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.

Earlier, he had met with Gen. Lloyd Austin, the head of U.S. Central Command, and other defense officials at CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa.

ISIL is one of the acronyms used to refer to the Islamic State.

Obama did not provide details about the briefing, but he offered a broad outline of what the campaign against the Islamic State will entail.

"We will use our airpower. We will train and equip our partners. We will advise them and we will assist them. We will lead a broad

coalition of countries who have a stake in this fight," he said.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel told lawmakers Tuesday that he and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey have already signed off on CENTCOM's plans.

"The new, broader air campaign will include strikes against all ISIL targets and enable the Iraqi security forces — including Kurdish forces — to continue to stay on the offensive and recapture territory from ISIL and hold it," Hagel told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee at a Tuesday hearing. "Because ISIL operates freely across the Iraqi-Syrian border, and maintains a safe haven in Syria, our actions will not be restrained by a border in name only."

Hagel said targets in Syria would include the group's command and control centers, infrastructure and logistics capabilities.

Until earlier this week, the Pentagon had been using airpower in Iraq for defensive purposes

to protect U.S. personnel and facilities and prevent humanitarian catastrophes. But on Monday, CENTCOM launched airstrikes against militant fighting positions southwest of Baghdad to support the Iraqi military.

"The airstrike southwest of Baghdad was the first strike taken as part of our expanded efforts beyond protecting our own people and humanitarian missions to hit ISIL targets as Iraqi forces go on offense," CENTCOM said in a press release.

The Pentagon has yet to bomb Islamic State targets in Syria, but Obama said last week that the U.S. air campaign would soon expand there. The administration has also called on Congress to fund an effort to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State.

There will soon be about 1,600 American troops in Iraq. In recent months, hundreds have been deployed to protect U.S. facilities and advise and assess Iraqi forces, but Obama has repeatedly ruled out using U.S. ground troops for combat.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAI/AP

President Barack Obama greets members of the military upon his arrival at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., on Tuesday.

"I want to make clear the American forces that have been deployed to Iraq do not, and will not, have a combat mission ... As your commander in chief I will not commit you and the rest of our armed forces to fighting another ground war in Iraq after a decade of massive ground deployments," he told troops Wednesday.

During testimony on Tuesday, Dempsey told lawmakers that CENTCOM's Austin wanted to embed U.S. forces with Iraqi

units to call in airstrikes against Islamic State targets. And the nation's top military officer said that he might support using ground troops in certain situations.

"If we reach the point where I believe our advisers should accompany Iraqi troops on attacks against specific ISIL targets, I will recommend that to the president," Dempsey said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Travis Tritten contributed to this report. harper.jon@stripes.com
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MILITARY

Loss of Navy Yard shipbuilder still echoes

Expert commemorated on anniversary of Washington shooting

By Aaron C. Davis
The Washington Post

Engineer Katie Thatcher nervously wrings her hands near the flight deck, waiting for updates from the crew six decks beneath her. From her perch, the Navy's next great warship is picture-perfect, its hull shimmering as it slices through the waves. Down below, there's a problem, and the Navy is missing its best man for days like this.

One of the ship's electric motors won't start. To keep moving, the captain has had to fire its gas-guzzling engines for 12 days, often burning an extra \$12,000 worth of fuel an hour. There is one person whom Thatcher would like to reach, the one who knew the ship best.

Almost 5,000 miles away at sea on its maiden transit, however, the crew of the amphibious assault ship USS America is on its own.

Retired Cmdr. Michael Arnold would be one of the 12 people killed last year when a gunman opened fire at the Washington Navy Yard. Thousands attended a memorial service marking the first anniversary of the shooting Tuesday at the Navy Yard.

The bespectacled program manager was the Navy's encyclopedia for ships like this. If there had ever been a similar problem, he would know the solution. If it was something new, he could make sure Thatcher and her crew did not waste time going down a path he had gone before.

The military circle affected most by last year's massacre was one of graying officers and bureaucrats who designed Navy ships, oversaw construction and ironed out problems once they were built.

Those killed had together amassed centuries of experience, bringing steady hands and know-how to the top-secret work of ensuring that U.S. sailors go to sea on the safest ships.

There was Vishnu "Kisan" Pandit, an institution in naval weapons calibration; Marty Bodrog, a procurement expert for the Navy's fastest small ships; and Arnold, credited as the father and all-around problem solver for the new 844-foot America class vessels — the first U.S. warships designed to carry full squadrons of the new F-35B Joint Strike Fighters.

The genesis of the USS Amer-



RICKY CARIOTI/The Washington Post

Sailors and Marines man the deck of the USS America, designed by retired Cmdr. Michael Arnold.

ica, the first of the class, can be traced back to a sketch by Arnold a decade ago on an airport napkin. He was in charge as it grew into

a 45,000-ton behemoth of steel, wires and high-tech electronics, now steaming to its home port in San Diego.

A plaque in the massive hangar that he designed to hold the jets bears his name.

The continuing journey to get the

\$2.8 billion ship ready for its commissioning remains harder without Arnold. And overcoming the problems of a new warship brings daily reminders to colleagues of what they and the Navy have lost.

On Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, the apparent happenstance of who was there and who was not in Arnold's corner of Building 197 was in fact the end of a very long design, the culmination of a decade of planning and building the America. Who lived and who died became forever fused with the ship.

The chain of events connecting ship to shooting had begun almost 10 years earlier, in planning meetings in Navy offices four miles away at the Pentagon.

The country's aging fleet of Vietnam-era ships designed for ferrying Marines and their Huey helicopters would soon rust beyond repair.

When the edict came in 2004 to build a carrier for the F-35, Arnold was thrilled. Designing a ship, for an airplane, brought together his two great passions.

After much planning, his design went to the Pentagon. The ship was a go, and Arnold was put in charge.

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MILITARY

Shooting: Death of shipbuilder left puzzle for team on USS America

FROM PAGE 10

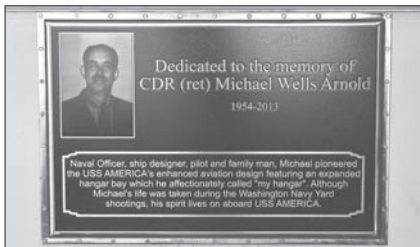
As the USS America took shape, colleagues continued to come and go from the chairs surrounding Arnold. By last September, only Arnold had been in the office long enough to have seen the Navy's last such ship from conception to commissioning. He was overseeing not just the final work on the USS America but construction of its successor, the USS Tripoli, and the design of a third, a still-unnamed ship known as LHA 8.

On the morning of the shooting, all three had arrived at a critical moment.

Arnold awoke at 4:30 a.m. and headed to the Navy Yard, where for years he had been among the first to arrive at Building 197. In those first quiet hours there were emails to answer about new shaft seal settings. After more than nine years of work, the USS America was scheduled for sea trials in six weeks, and the sprint was on.

Already departing for the ship that morning was Arnold's top deputy, Cmdr. Jon Letourneau — a trip that took him away from his normal spot at a desk outside Arnold's office.

As daylight broke, Arnold's top



RICKY CARIOT/The Washington Post

A plaque dedicated to retired Cmdr. Michael Arnold hangs aboard the warship USS America.

assistants on the USS Tripoli and the LHA 8 were arriving for a meeting Arnold had called over contract changes needed urgently on the two. Capt. Chris Mercer, Arnold's boss, poked his head in just before the 8 a.m. bugle call.

At 8:16 a.m., Arnold was alone again in his office as Aaron Alexis fired his first shot a floor above. Most of those outside Arnold's office dismissed it as something else, maybe a falling table. Inside, the noise passed unnoticed. The phone was ringing. It was his wife Jolanda Arnold calling to say hi.

Less than two minutes into their conversation, a fire alarm began blaring. Two of Arnold's deputies rushed in.

"I have to go," Arnold told his wife.

There were more loud noises that sounded distinctly like gunfire, but echoing, from somewhere. A colleague began urging everyone to evacuate. Arnold and his deputies briefly debated what to do; they would leave, too. They went to grab their IDs and get out.

As they split up, Alexis appeared. He rounded the corner, turning first toward Letourneau's empty desk, then toward Arnold. Alexis's decision to turn toward Arnold gave Mercer and three others across the hall a split-second to slam the door. They heard Alexis fire and then reload. A bullet ripped through Mercer's wall.

Under his desk, Mercer frantically typed emails to a superior, trying to guide police to the shooter. Then a text message came from

a colleague who had crawled into Arnold's office to take cover. Arnold was shot and not breathing.

Alexis returned, pacing the hallways. There was a terrifying wait, a burst of gunfire, then yells of "shooter down."

At the docks in Mississippi, Thatcher and Letourneau had spent the day with a list of cellphone numbers for colleagues back at Navy Yard. After hours, there was just one name unaccounted for.

Every day since has brought a lesson in the ways one man — the one Mercer called his "brains," the one Thatcher thought of as her "wise uncle" — could be missed.

"The first couple weeks were just 'talk slow and walk slow,'" Mercer said. "I celebrated just getting my uniform on and shining my shoes and getting to work; it was that hard."

Then every day a cruel cycle would repeat. A question would pop into Mercer's inbox, or a phone call would come from the Pentagon and it would send Mercer's thoughts to the person he always had turned to for advice, and straight back to the shooting.

"This was the most difficult thing I've done in my life," Mercer said. NAVSEA's struggles to get back on its feet were obvious to Capt. Robert Hall Jr., USS America's commanding officer in waiting. "It was quite a chunk of time when it was hard to go up there and be complaining," he said. "But life goes on. You've got thousands of people working on a ship. It's hard to keep going, but I give them

credit; they did."

Six weeks after the shooting, Arnold's team had no choice.

Boarding USS America for its sea trials, Mercer slid a photo of Arnold into his testing binder.

Over the next week, the ship's propulsion, navigation and other systems flickered on. There were issues, but all major systems were working. USS America was coming to life. It seemed, they decided, like a natural tribute.

Mercer and the crew hung a broom from the yardarm in a riff on Navy lore. Returning to port, they cheered for Arnold and a clean sweep of the tests.

Back at the dock, Mercer gathered the crew and reached for a healing moment, but anger seeped through.

"He should have been here," Mercer said. "He just missed it."

Thatcher left distraught and resolved to follow through with a plan she'd once mentioned to Arnold — sail aboard the USS America as it circumnavigated South America. She would be the Navy Yard point person to keep on fixing problems.

Now waiting for an update from the engine room about a replacement part, Thatcher wanders a little out of her way, passing through the hangar Arnold designed and glancing up at the plaque.

Before evening prayer, Thatcher's phone finally rings. The hybrid engine is working. But there's a new problem, she's told: Pressure in the cooling water system is low. It's another question for Arnold, and another time to wonder: What would he have done?

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

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Auction Begins: 3PM

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(Must purchase over \$500 to enter this drawing)

FINGER FOODS AVAILABLE

NATION

Red tide off Fla. Gulf Coast could hit economy

By JASON DEAREN

The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — It's like Florida's version of The Blob. Slow moving globs of toxic algae in the northeast Gulf of Mexico are killing sea turtles, sharks and fish, and threatening the waters and beaches that fuel the region's economy.

Known as "red tide," this particular strain called *Karenia brevis* is present nearly every year off Florida, but large blooms can be particularly devastating. Right now, the algae is collecting in an area about 60 miles wide and 100

miles long, about 5 to 15 miles off St. Petersburg in the south and stretching north to Florida's Big Bend, where the peninsula ends and the Panhandle begins.

Fishermen make a living off the state's northwest coast are reporting fish kills and reddish water.

"It boils up in the propeller wash like boiled red Georgia clay. It's spooky," said Clearwater fisherman Brad Gorst as he steered the charter fishing boat Gulfstream 2 in waters near Honey Island, where dead fish recently washed ashore.

Red tide kills fish, manatees and

other marine life by releasing a toxin that paralyzes their central nervous system. The algae also foul beaches and can be harmful to people who inhale the algae's toxins when winds blow onshore or by crashing waves, particularly those with asthma and other respiratory ailments.

In 2005, a strong red tide killed reefs, made beaches stinky and caused millions in economic damage. A weaker red tide in 2013 killed 276 manatees, state records show, after infecting the grasses eaten by the endangered creatures.

"This red tide... will likely cause

considerable damage to our local fisheries and our tourist economy over the next few months," said Heyward Mathews, an emeritus professor of oceanography at St. Petersburg College who has studied the issue for decades.

Despite years of study, there's nothing anyone has been able to do about it. In the 1950s, wildlife officials tried killing the red tide algae by dumping copper sulfate on it, which made the problem worse in some ways. But some researchers are working to change that.

Predicting when red tides are going to be especially bad can

help fishermen and beach businesses prepare.

Right now, much of the information comes from satellite images, which are often obscured by clouds. "In this particular red tide, we got a good image on July 23 — then we went weeks without another image," said University of South Florida ocean scientist Robert Weisberg.

Unlike other red tide species, *Karenia brevis* is not believed to be caused by man-made pollution such as agricultural runoff, and historical accounts of what is believed to be the same red tide date back to the 1700s.

Wildfire deals blow to Calif. mill town

By JEFF BARNARD

The Associated Press

WEED, Calif. — Besides destroying or damaging scores of homes and other structures, a fast-moving wildfire struck, a blow at the economic vitals of this struggling Northern California timber town, knocking its last wood products mill offline for an undetermined amount of time.

With a maintenance shed reduced to twisted sheet-metal and the main manufacturing facility suffering structural damage, but still standing with a new coat of pink fire retardant, the Roseburg Forest Products veneer mill on the outskirts of Weed was out of commission Tuesday while workers began assessing the damage, said Kellye Wise, vice president for human resources of the company based in Dillard, Ore. The company hoped to have a better idea of when the mill could reopen by Monday.

"We were in the middle of its



GREG BARNETTE, THE (REDDING, CALIF.) RECORD SEARCHLIGHT/AP

Vehicles and homes were destroyed Monday in Weed, Calif., when a wind-driven wildfire raced through and forced more than 1,000 people to flee the small town near the Oregon border.

path," he said of the fire. "It shows the great response of our employees, some of whom lost their own homes."

As the fire roared through trees, brush and homes on Schoolhouse Hill on Monday, the mill had enough warning to send

home most of the 60 workers on the day shift, and mobilize the mill fire crew, Wise said. While they fought to save the mill, firebrands blew overhead and ignited backs of houses downwind.

The mill shutdown, however temporary, is one more blow to

Weed, which has never recovered from the logging cutbacks of the 1990s to protect the threatened northern spotted owl and salmon on that put tens of thousands of people in Siskiyou County out of work, said Siskiyou County Supervisor Michael Kobseff.

Pa. police ID 'extremely dangerous' suspect in ambush

The Associated Press

BLOOMING GROVE, Pa. — Authorities say a heavily armed survivalist with a vendetta against law enforcement is the suspect in an ambush that killed one Pennsylvania State Police trooper and wounded another in a heavily forested region of northeastern Pennsylvania.

State police have warned the public that Eric Frein, 31, of Canadensis is dangerous, saying he's talked about committing mass murder.

After opening fire on troopers at the remote barracks in the Pocono Mountains on Friday night, Frein evidently tried to make his

escape in a 2001 Jeep Cherokee, authorities said. Instead, he drove into a swamp about 2 miles away, where a man walking his dog stumbled across the partly submerged SUV three days later and called 911.

It was the big break police were looking for, one that set off a massive manhunt by more than 200 law enforcement officials who fanned out across miles of thick



Frein

woods, a place where Frein is believed to feel at home.

Inside the abandoned Jeep, investigators found evidence they say ties Frein to the ambush that killed one trooper and critically wounded another: shell casings matching those found at the shooting scene. Frein's driver's license, Social Security card and Pennsylvania Game Commission range permit. Camouflage face paint, two empty rifle cases and military gear.

"We intend to keep him on the run until we catch him," State Police Commissioner Frank Noonan said at a news conference Tuesday in which he revealed the suspect's name.

Calling him "extremely dangerous," Noonan said Frein has a long-standing grudge against law enforcement.

"He has made statements about wanting to kill law enforcement officers and also to commit mass acts of murder," Noonan said. "What his reasons are, we don't know. But he has very strong feelings about law enforcement and seems to be very angry with a lot of things that go on in our society."

Frein was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder, homicide of a law enforcement officer and other offenses. "We have no idea where he is," Noonan said.

'No welfare for weed' bill passes in House

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House passed a bill Tuesday night that could make it a little harder for people to use government welfare payments to buy marijuana in states where the drug is legal.

Supporters call it the "no welfare for weed" bill.

The bill would prevent people from using government-issued welfare debit cards to make purchases at stores that sell marijuana. It would also prohibit people from using the cards to withdraw cash from ATMs in those stores.

A 2012 federal law already prevents people from using welfare debit cards at liquor stores, casinos and strip clubs.

Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash., is the main sponsor of the bill. He said it is a logical extension of existing law now that Washington state and Colorado have legalized marijuana for recreational use.

"The fact that some people are using welfare for weed is outrageous," Reichert said in a statement. "While some may decide to spend their own money on drugs, we're not going to give them a taxpayer subsidy to do it."

The House passed the bill on a voice vote, which does not require lawmakers to cast a recorded vote.

The reach of the bill would be limited, however, because pot smokers could still use their benefit cards to get cash from an ATM at a different store or bank, and then use the money to buy marijuana.

About 3.6 million families receive cash benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, according to the Health and Human Services Department. That includes about 45,000 in Colorado and about 99,000 in Washington state.

Frazz

WHEN YOU'RE IN KINDERGARTEN, YOU GET NAPS.



WHEN YOU HAVE A JOB, YOU GET COFFEE BREAKS.



IN GRADE SCHOOL, WE GET RECESS!



91% OF MY LIFE TO GO, AND I'VE PENKED.



(I STILL GIVE MYSELF RECESS!)

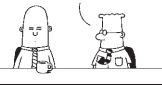


Dilbert

BEING A LEADER IS A LONELY JOB.



TRY BEING LESS OF A #10*. THEN PEOPLE MIGHT WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU.



I DON'T SEE HOW THAT COULD WORK.



CAN WE GET BACK TO YOU MANIPULATING MY EMOTIONS FOR FINANCIAL GAIN?



Pearls Before Swine

WHY IS THE PLACE THEY PUT YOUR COMIC IN THE NEWSPAPER CALLED THE 'FUNNY PAGES'?



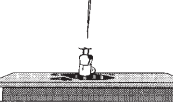
BECAUSE THE WORK I DO IS MEANT TO BE FUNNY.



IS THERE A 'SAD' BUT DOING HIS BEST' PAGE?



THIS SEEMS TO BE A SENSITIVE SUBJECT.



Non Sequitur

WHEN GOLF CAN BE CALLED A SPORT...



Candorville

'FRAP: WRONGFUL OR CRIMINAL DECEPTION INTENDED TO RESULT IN FINANCIAL OR PERSONAL GAIN.'



DEET IT DOES APPLY.



NO, IT DOESN'T.



THAT DEFINITION SAYS NOTHING ABOUT CONDUCT PAYING US \$10 MILLION TO HIRE DENZEL WASHINGTON AS A PITCH-MAN, BUT US HIRING OURSelves INSTEAD FOR \$200K AND USING THE REST OF THE MONEY TO PAY BACK OUR CREDITORS.



'PRISON: A BUILDING IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE LEGALLY HELD AS A PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME. NEVER MIND, IT WAS JUST AN IDEA.'



Get Fuzzy

MY MUM IS FROM HUNGARY, AND MY DAD IS FROM THE STATES. HE CAME OVER TO LIVER WITH US AND DECIDED TO STAY.



WOW, I'D STAY THERE, TOO!



WORLD WAR II?



HE WAS IN THE ARMY.



NO, HE TOOK A KIP IN AN ARMY TRANSPORT IN A PLACE CALLED OTIC AND WORKS UP THE NEXT DAY IN BARLES WORTHY.



'OTIC'? BRUCKY. YOUR FAMILY IS FROM MASSACHUSETTS!



BLAST! I'M A SLUTTY COMMUNIST !!!

Doonesbury

BARNSHONY? SERIOUSLY YOU'RE GOING TO WORK IN BARNSHONY?



WELL, RICK AND I HAD AN AGREEMENT. IF HE WANTED TO FINISHED UP HERE, HE'D FINISHED UP HERE. HE'D FINISHED UP HERE. HE'D FINISHED UP HERE.



I WAS WEST COAST DIVERGE EDITOR FOR PEOPLE MAGAZINE.



RICK LOVES ME VERY MUCH. NO LIE! THAT'S IN A BUNCH!



Fort Knox

IS THAT OUR FAMILY TREE?



YES IT IS, DONALD.



GRANDMA SHOWED ME HOW WE'RE EVEN CONNECTED TO ROYALTY!



NO KIPPING! PIP!



YEAH IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE.



SO OUR RELATIVES MARRIED ROYALS?



NO, THEY SHINED THEIR SHOES.

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
18					19		20	21				
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45	46				47	48				49		
					51					52		
53					54					55		

ACROSS

- Burn somewhat
- Bofire residue
- Lecherous look
- Zero, in tennis
- Luau side dish
- Rind
- Portent
- Biz letterhead abbr.
- Tiny bit
- Mother —, nee Agnes Bojaxhiu
- Caffeine-laced nut
- Browse from the street
- "Speed-the-Plow" playwright
- Before
- out a living
- Yankee nickname
- Aviate
- Expose
- Hostel
- Reaction to fireworks
- Speed demon's nemesis
- Rewards at a raffle
- Deposits
- Go too far
- Viscous stuff
- Grecian vessel
- Barrel component
- Wan
- Potential caviar
- Capri, for one

DOWN

- Terrier type
- Conclusion
- Prepared to drive
- Coagulate
- Dorothy's last word
- State with conviction
- Ordered more magazines
- Related to bees
- Junior
- Type of tree
- October stones
- Succeed
- Zodiac feline
- Shade provider
- Perch
- Have bills
- Indian metropolises
- Gumbo ingredient
- Juror, in theory
- Hotel employee
- Florentine river
- Popular board game
- "Absolutely"
- Single
- Choose
- Gun the engine
- Money of 23-Down
- Like city areas
- Got up
- Bob or Elizabeth of poitics
- Newspaper pg.
- Navig. aid
- Erstwhile accord
- Director Howard

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	B	B	S		L	A	M					
	E	L	A	H		V	A	N	E	S		
I	R	O	N									
C	R	O	S	S	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G
E	S	P				T	R	A	I	L	F	D
						H	E	E	L		A	L
	M	A	R	R						M	E	L
F	A	N	S			B	A	L	E			
C	O	Y			T	I	A	R	A		M	O
C	R	O	S	S		D	R	E	S	S	I	N
					I	N	L	A	I	D		T
					E	U	R	O	S		I	L
					E	S	T				C	O

9-18

CRYPTOQUIP

L F K J U C E M J U W E F N N W M

G F U S F J H Z T P E W L F W F T W A Z

L J G E M C A E F U C H S . L A

H A F N N S U A A Z W E M K A U E .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT UTILITY WORKER IS A SPECIALIST IN ELECTRIC POWER, SURELY HE KNOWS WHAT'S WATT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police say a prowler stole couple's candy

PA ALTOONA — Police said a central Pennsylvania couple saw a man urinating with his pants down around his ankles moments before he broke into their home and grabbed a handful of Chick-O-Sticks from their candy bowl.

Earl Munoz, 29, remained jailed Tuesday. The Johnstown man faces a preliminary hearing Sept. 24 for the burglary Altoona police said occurred shortly after 4:25 a.m. Saturday.

The Altoona Mirror reported the couple first saw Munoz as the husband was leaving to drive his wife to work.

When the husband returned 20 minutes later, he found an open window and a shoeprint on a bucket beneath the window.

The husband reported only candy was stolen. Police said Munoz had a Chick-O-Stick wrapper in his pockets — along with two small bags of cocaine.

Man charged with harassing monk seal

HI HONOLULU — A 40-year-old man suspected of harassing an endangered monk seal last week has been charged with a felony and jailed.

Witnesses told Honolulu Police that James Rice on Sept. 11 got to within 6 feet of the seal at a Nanakuli beach and ignored warnings by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration volunteers to back off.

The arresting officer said Rice threw sand at the animal, which became agitated and moved.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Rice was jailed at Oahu Community Correctional Center and was unable to post bail of \$15,000.

The Hawaiian monk seal was listed as endangered in 1976. State lawmakers four years ago passed a law that makes harassing any endangered Hawaii animals a felony.

Lakota man wants name of Harney Peak changed

SD RAPID CITY — An American Indian man is seeking to have South Dakota's tallest point renamed.

Basile Brave Heart says the name Harney Peak is offensive.

The 7,242-foot-high peak is the highest point in the Black Hills and also billed as the highest point in North America east of the Rocky Mountains. It was named for Army Gen. William S. Harney.

Brave Heart said Harney in 1855 led a command of soldiers that killed 86 Sioux in Nebraska. Brave Heart said the peak should be named for Black Elk, a Lakota spiritual leader who reported having a vision on the peak in the 1870s.

State Historical Society Director Jay Vogt told the Rapid City Journal the state Board on Geographic Names would hear testimony on any formal application for a name change.



MINDY SCHAUER, THE ORANGE COUNTY (CALIF.) REGISTER/AP

Deputy dog

There's a new sheriff in town, Sake Sue, and she's furry and very sweet, according to owner Colleen Rahn. In fact, Sake Sue is a therapy dog. The Orange County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals held a Walk for the Animals event Sunday at Central Park in Huntington Beach, Calif. The theme was "cawdog."

Fugitive nabbed at Frisbee tourney

OR EUGENE — A man wanted for an armed bank robbery in New York eluded authorities for four years until they caught up with him while he played at an ultimate Frisbee tournament in Oregon.

KVAL-TV said police in Eugene arrested Jahson Marryshow around 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Ulster County Sheriff's Office in New York said Marryshow, 32, formerly of Woodstock, N.Y., was indicted in late 2010 on charges of robbing a Bank of America there. Marryshow is also accused of stealing a car and setting a barn on fire as a diversion.

The U.S. Marshals Service and local police got a tip that he was living in Eugene.

Police said Marryshow didn't try to flee Sunday. He's being held in the Lane County Jail, pending extradition.

Spurned doctor charged in colleague's poisoning

TX HOUSTON — Prosecutors said a 43-year-old breast cancer doctor based at Houston's famed Texas Medical Center had a "fatal attraction" to a fellow physician who rejected

her, prompting her to poison her lover by lacing his coffee with ethylene glycol.

The chemical is a common additive in automotive antifreeze but also is used by University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center labs where Ana Maria Gonzalez-Angulo and another cancer researcher and doctor, George Blumenschein, both worked.

Her attorneys said in opening statements Monday at her aggravated assault trial that evidence won't point conclusively to her, and that others may be responsible for his poisoning.

Prosecutors said Blumenschein survived kidney failure after she served him two cups of tainted coffee last year.

She could get 20 years in prison if convicted.

4 students hurt in high school lab fire

CO DENVER — Four students were burned and one suffered serious injuries Monday when a fire erupted in a Denver high school chemistry laboratory while the teacher was conducting a demonstration with methanol, officials said.

Three students were treated at hospitals and released, and the fourth was transferred to another facility because of the extent of

the student's injuries, said Lindsay Neil, a spokeswoman for the Science, Math and Arts Academy charter school.

The teacher, identified as Daniel Powell, suffered minor injuries to his hands and declined medical treatment, Neil said.

Pledge dispute gets atheists' backing

ND NEW TOWN — A national atheist group is helping the parents of a 6-year-old New Town boy who wants to sit down while his classmates stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The American Humanist Association's Appignani Humanist Legal Center sent a letter to school officials, saying that coercing a student to stand for the pledge infringes on his or her constitutional rights.

Parent Jesse Adams told the Minut Daily News that school staff have removed his son from the classroom and also suggested to the parents that they bring the boy to school 10 minutes late.

School District Superintendent Marc Bluestone said the boy has been asked to stand outside the classroom during the pledge to avoid disrupting the other students.

From wire reports

THE CENSUS



\$1M

The amount the Florida Department of Citrus paid Marvel Comics to

create a new Captain Citrus to promote the benefits of orange juice. The department's mascot was born in 2011 as a big, fat talking orange wearing a green cape. Thanks to his makeover, he's been transformed into a buff superhero who will fight evil alongside the likes of Captain America in a custom Marvel comic. With orange juice sales falling to record lows, state officials hope he can sway new, young consumers into drinking juice.

FACES

Thicke on 'Blurred Lines': 'I was high'

By AUGUST BROWN
Los Angeles Times

Robin Thicke claims he was a little blurrier himself during the recording of the hit single "Blurred Lines," according to a new deposition from the singer.

Thicke's comments surfaced Monday as part of a lawsuit between the writers of the summer-dominating 2013 single (which also featured Pharrell Williams and T.I.) and the estate of Marvin Gaye, whose 1977 song "Got To Give It Up" bears more than a passing resemblance to "Blurred Lines" and was an acknowledged inspiration for it.

According to Thicke's deposition (first given in April and excerpted in a federal court filing Monday after a judge ruled that it should be unsealed), Thicke was intox-

cated at the time of the recording, and admitted he actually had very little to do with the song besides performing its lead vocal.

"To be honest, that's the only part where — I was high on Vicodin and alcohol when I showed up at the studio," Thicke said. "So my recollection is when we made the song, I thought I wanted — I — I wanted to be more involved than I actually was by the time, nine months later, it became a huge hit and I wanted credit. So I started kind of convincing myself that I was a little more part of it than I was, and I — because I didn't want him — I wanted some credit for this big hit. But the reality is, is that Pharrell had the beat, and he wrote almost every single part of the song."

Thicke estimated that Williams had written about 75 percent of the song when

he walked into the room.

The singer had previously told GQ that the songwriting was much more of a collaborative effort, and Thicke was given a co-writer credit that awarded him around 20 percent of publishing royalties. Thicke also claimed to have been drunk during almost all his media appearances to promote the song.

"Every day I woke up, I would take a Vicodin to start the day and then I would fill up a water bottle with vodka and drink it before and during my interviews," he said. The singer said that at the time of the deposition that he had been off Vicodin for two months.

In his own deposition, Williams corroborated Thicke's account that the song was all but completed by the time Thicke



Robin Thicke

performed his vocal. Williams said he let Thicke make any public credit because it would be good for sales.

Williams' testimony got especially heated during a moment when the Gaye estate's attorneys asked him to sight-read sheet music, to which Williams repeatedly responded that he wasn't comfortable doing so.

"I have the prize in the Cracker Jack box"

AMY SUSSMAN, INVISION/AP

Academy Award-winning actress Octavia Spencer stars in the new TV series "Red Band Society." The show premieres on AFN-Pulse on Sept. 21.

Spencer is content with new ensemble TV role

By ALICIA RANCILLO
The Associated Press

As the offers poured in for Oscar winner Octavia Spencer to join the many other film actors who have recently transitioned to television, she was clear on what she wanted.

For one, she didn't want to do a sitcom.

She had a recurring role on the first season of CBS' "Mom," playing an addict with a looming prison sentence for embezzlement who befriends Allison Janney and Anna Farris' characters in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Spencer got laughs, but believes regularly performing in front of an audience would be too distracting.

"I have severe stage fright, and ... it's very different to be on a television set or a film set where you're working with crew people," Spencer, 44, said in a recent interview. "You're not there to entertain. You're all there to do a job. When you do stuff in front of an audience, you're putting on a miniplay. It's like, 'Ahh! I can't think about whether you're being entertained. I have to think about my character.'"

A role in an ensemble series, however, had potential. "I have the prize in the Cracker Jack box. I don't need to be the prize," she said. "Big distinction. Big difference."

Spencer plays the head nurse in "Red Band

Society." The dramedy follows the ups and downs of teens who are long-term patients in a children's hospital.

"I like the fact that it really is about (the kids) and their journey, and you have these adult characters who kind of keep them within boundaries," she said.

What made her hesitate was whether the tone of the show would be too depressing. "I thought, 'Well, do I really want to be a nurse at a children's hospital? That's probably going to be the saddest thing on the planet. I don't know.' And then I read it and I was pleasantly surprised because I didn't realize I was going to laugh as much as I did and enjoy it as much as I did."

Spencer, who won her Oscar for 2011's "The Help," said one of the more challenging aspects of switching to television is adjusting to the quick turnover of scripts.

"I'm a dyslexic, and it takes me a lot longer to learn material," she said. "But you know what? It was very refreshing to me to have Halle Berry ask me if I was struggling with it. Billy Bob Thornton asked me if I was struggling, and Viola Davis (too)."

"All of us have big film backgrounds ... because we're so used to having that one bit of material and spending so much time with that material before you ever start shooting it, that when the scripts are coming really quickly, it's like, 'Wait a minute.'"

Ex-POW starring in film

The Associated Press

Former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch is enjoying her latest role, starring in a Christian movie currently in production.

But the West Virginia native is not sure if an acting career is in her future. Lynch plays Beth Barlow, the president's daughter, in the JC Films production of "One Church."

"It's a lot of stress," Lynch told The Associated Press on Tuesday as she was heading from West Virginia to Rock Hill, S.C., to finish filming. "But I have to say I've had fun with it, and it's an opportunity. I'm one of those people who says 'never say never,' and you never know where life will take me."

President and screenwriter Jason Campbell of Morgantown, W.Va.-based JC Films said the drama explores the possible government takeover of churches.

Lynch was captured after her Army unit took a wrong turn and came under attack in Iraq in 2003. Eleven American soldiers were killed and six were captured, including Lynch. Her high-profile nighttime rescue from an Iraqi hospital made her an instant celebrity.

"I was kind of thrust into it," Lynch said. "I didn't really have the option. It was, 'here you go.' Like everything else that I've done in life, I think perse-

ance is my life motto now, having that never give up attitude and going for it."

Other news

■ **Leonardo DiCaprio's** movie roles have made him an international star, but his long and little-known commitment to preserving the global environment has led to his new role — as a U.N. Messenger of Peace. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on Tuesday that the 39-year-old actor will join 11 other prominent world figures who advocate on behalf of the U.N. as Messengers of Peace.

■ **Netflix** says filmmaker **Judd Apatow** co-created a new series that will take a frank, comic look at modern relationships. Netflix said Tuesday it has made a two-season commitment to the series, titled "Love." It will star Paul Rust and Gillian Jacobs as a couple learning about the ups and downs of intimacy and commitment.

■ Nearly 60 years after his death, we still have not heard the last from **H.L. Mencken**. Next week, the Library of America will publish "The Days Trilogy," an expanded edition of three popular memoirs by the celebrated journalist and linguist that were released in the 1940s: "Happy Days," "Newspaper Days" and "Heathen Days."

Tune for good

The once-homeless singer-songwriter **Jewel** wrote "Home to Me" to support the **ReThink public housing initiative**. Inspired by an online contest that drew hundreds of submissions, Jewel unveiled the track online Tuesday, where it's available as a free download.

CASEY CURRY, INVISION/AP



WORLD

S. Korea says US man tried to swim to North

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean border guards arrested an American man who they believe was attempting to swim across a river to rival North Korea, a South Korean defense official said Wednesday.

The man was apprehended Tuesday night while lying on a bank of the Han River in a restricted military area near the border, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to office policy.

The man told investigators that he tried to go to North Korea to meet leader Kim Jong Un, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported, citing an unidentified government source. It said the man, aged around 29, is a computer repairman from Texas who came to South Korea 10 days ago.

South Korea's Defense Ministry and the National Intelligence Service said they couldn't confirm the report.

Americans are occasionally arrested after entering North Korea illegally from China, but a U.S. citizen trying to get in from South Korea is unusual.

In the 1960s, several U.S. soldiers walked into North Korea while on a patrol near the mine-strewn Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ. Those army deserters later appeared in North Korean propaganda films and taught English there.

In 1996, American Evan C. Hunziker entered North Korea by

swimming across the Yalu River that marks the Chinese border. Hunziker, who apparently made the swim on a drunken dare, was accused of spying and detained for three months.

Hunziker, 26 at the time, was eventually freed after negotiations involving a special U.S. envoy. The North Koreans wanted to slap Hunziker with a \$100,000 criminal fine but eventually agreed on a \$5,000 payment to settle a bill for a hotel where he was detained. He killed himself about one month after his release.

About 27,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea to avoid poverty and political suppression since the end of the Korean War. Some South Koreans have attempted to defect to the impoverished, authoritarian North, but such cases are rare.

Last year, South Korean soldiers shot and killed a man with a South Korean passport who officials said ignored warnings while swimming across the Imjin River toward North Korea.

Some Americans recently detained in North Korea include missionaries aiming to spread the gospel or draw attention to human rights abuses.

North Korea is currently holding three Americans. The country's Supreme Court sentenced one of them, Matthew Miller, on Sunday to six years of hard labor after finding him guilty of illegally entering the country to commit espionage.



DARRIN VOJNOVIC/AP

A firefighter sprays water at a damaged apartment building Wednesday after shelling in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine.

Shells hit Ukraine residential area, kill 2

The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Shelling in the rebel-held eastern Ukraine city of Donetsk killed two people Wednesday and wounded three others, municipal authorities said.

The city council of Donetsk confirmed that shells had hit a neighborhood in the north of the city, where fighting centered on the government-controlled airport has caught many residential neighborhoods in the crossfire.

An AP reporter at the scene saw the remains of what appeared

to be a Grad rocket in the burned-out building. There was one body visible at the scene.

Despite the cease-fire and a law passed by the Ukrainian parliament Tuesday granting greater autonomy to rebel-held parts of the east, civilian casualties have continued to rise, adding to the estimated 3,000 people killed.

On Tuesday, the Ukrainian parliament passed two laws that would grant temporary self-rule to the rebellious regions as well as amnesty for many rebel fighters. But while the rebels' prelimi-

nary response to those bills was unusually positive, top rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko was quoted by Interfax news agency on Wednesday as saying that he would not accept key aspects of them.

The laws, which allow for three years of self-rule and grant amnesty to rebels not accused of serious crimes, call for local elections to be held in the region in December. But Zakharchenko said that the Donetsk rebels "will decide ourselves when and what kind of elections we will have."

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Smartphone woes sink Sony profits

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Sony expects its annual loss to swell to \$2 billion and has canceled dividends for the first time in more than half a century after writing down the value of its troubled smartphone business.

Citing intense competition, especially from Chinese rivals, Sony said Wednesday it anticipates a net loss of \$2.15 billion for the fiscal year that ends March 31, 2015. Its previous forecast was for a \$466 million net loss.

For the first time since going public in 1958, the Japanese electronics and entertainment conglomerate canceled dividend payments for the half- and full-year.

"This is the very first time we ever eliminated a dividend," said Sony's president Kazuo Hirai. "For more than 50 years we always paid a dividend. The entire management takes this very seriously."

seriously."

The company plans to cut staff in its mobile communications business by about 15 percent, or roughly 1,000 people, Hirai said. Details of that plan are to be announced later.

Sony has been trying to reshape its business after years of red ink and has repeatedly promised turnarounds without delivering.

It said the bigger loss for the current fiscal year stems from a lower valuation of its mobile phone business due to weaker than expected sales. The company is recording an "impairment charge" of \$1.7 billion in the July-September quarter.

The charge is purely an adjustment to the company's balance sheet, involving no cash, but it reflects that the mobile business is far less valuable and will generate lower profits than previously thought.

The smartphone business has proven particularly tough for Sony. Apple and Samsung domi-

nate at the top end while Chinese and other Asian manufacturers are hogging the market for cheaper phones that are most likely to appeal in fast-growing developing countries.

Hirai said Sony had not managed to stay ahead of sea changes in the industry.

"The Chinese smartphone manufacturers have made great strides and are expanding outside their own market, and this has caused a shift in the pricing," he said. "Meanwhile, Apple and other manufacturers are launching strong, innovative products. The changes are very rapid and dramatic."

Hirai said Sony expects a loss in its mobile business this year, but would return to profit by cutting costs and focusing on higher end devices. It is also positioning itself for future growth in smartphones and mobile technology.

"We have to be in the competitive landscape in the next stage and be ready for that evolution,"

he said.

Sony intends to leverage its vast archive of music and movies, network services and technology to compete.

"By combining these assets well we can cut up with uniquely Sony products," he said.

Looking ahead, Sony plans to concentrate on its "premium lineup" of smartphones and reduce the number of mid-range models that have proven less popular than expected, Hirai said.

MARKET WATCH

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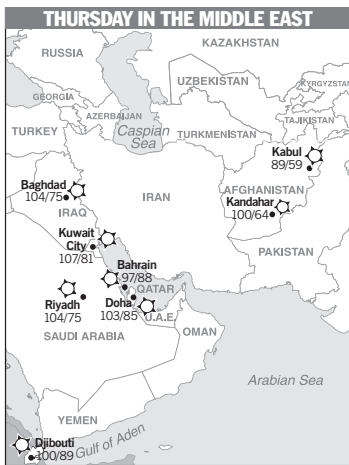
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South Korean won (Sept. 18)	1,007.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Bahian (Dinar)	\$1.6337
Canada (Dollar)	1.0960
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Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2688
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Philippines (Peso)	44.27
Poland (Zloty)	3.23
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2634
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Switzerland (Franc)	0.9344
Thailand (Baht)	32.23
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OPINION

Islamic State's a symptom, not the disease

By ANDREW J. BACEVICH

“Comprehensive strategy.” That is the operative phrase that the Obama administration has employed in rolling out its new campaign to take on the Islamic State. With its connotations of scope and gravity, the phrase resonates — not unlike “extra heavy duty” or “bigger and better than ever.” Among observers on both the military left and the liberalized right, it has found favor. That the Islamic State poses something akin to a planetary threat has become the consensus view in such quarters. This, offered after perhaps a bit too much hesitation, is the response that may yet save the day.

In fact, whatever else we may say of the approach that the administration has cobbled together — American air power (assuming the availability of suitable targets) plus surrogates on the ground (if motivated to fight) supported by a hastily assembled coalition vaguely promising to assist “as appropriate” — it does not qualify as a comprehensive strategy. It's whack-a-mole all over again, the same method that President Barack Obama implemented in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen, applied now on a larger scale.

Woe betide the patient treated by a physician unable to distinguish between symptom and disease. Woe betide the nation whose leaders suffer from the same failing. Unfortunately, that pretty much defines where the United States finds itself today.

The Islamic State emerged from a set of nontrivial conditions afflicting many na-

tions across the greater Middle East. Figuring prominently among those conditions are political dysfunction, economic underdevelopment and social alienation, along with the pernicious residue of European colonialism still lingering everywhere from arbitrary borders to thieves' local elites. Those so inclined can throw into the mix the ongoing plight of the Palestinian people.

The key point is this: Were the United States and its partners miraculously to succeed tomorrow in destroying the Islamic State and its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, those conditions would still persist. As a consequence, another “Islamic State,” under another banner, inspired by a new leader, would almost certainly appear. And we'll find ourselves right back where we are today. Indeed, Islamic State is itself a legacy organization, successor to the now-defunct al-Qaida in Iraq.

Now this is not reason to forgo attacking the Islamic State, a truly vicious and vile enterprise (even if posing a negligible threat to the United States, a flood of overheated rhetoric notwithstanding). But the Islamic State is a symptom, not the disease. American bombs and missiles might well suppress this particular symptom, but surely will not eliminate its cause or even prevent its recurrence.

Here we confront what should by all rights qualify as one of the major lessons to be drawn from the U.S. military's decades-long involvement in the Islamic world. Armed might, often expended at great human, fiscal and moral cost, holds little promise as the means to fix the problem. It hasn't worked. Trying harder won't

produce a different outcome. Any strategy worthy of the name, therefore, will necessarily rest on something other than military power.

Of course, proponents of military action reflexively acknowledge that “there is no military solution” to this or that situation. Typically, they utter this platitude immediately before insisting that in the particular situation at hand no nonmilitary alternative exists. So it's bombs away.

But take that platitude seriously and make it a basis for actual policy. That's when an authentically comprehensive strategy becomes possible.

What might form the basis of such a policy? Lowering the U.S. military profile, which has proved counterproductive (see the Obama principle: Don't do stupid stuff). Erecting effective defenses (deter and contain the bad guys). Living up to our professed ideals (demonstrating the universality of liberal values). On the margins, helping the peoples of the Islamic world to reconcile modernity with tradition (which implies making adjustments on their own terms).

A long-term proposition requiring considerable patience and not without risk? You bet. But the alternative is whack-a-mole from now until the cows come home. And that's no strategy. It's an admission of failure, accepting permanent war as inevitable.

Andrew J. Bacevich, professor emeritus of history and international relations at Boston University, is currently a fellow at Columbia University. His online column “War for the Greater Middle East” goes live Sept. 24. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Do a risk/reward analysis with Vietnam in mind

By DAVID NELSON

President Barack Obama has announced a broad outline of the U.S. strategy for confronting the Islamic State, with a sense of urgency created by two beheadings of American journalists. The ultimate strategy should include some risk/reward analysis, versus one of victory at any price, especially since Osama bin Laden gloated in 2004 that al-Qaida “is bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy.” We should not allow the Islamic State to succeed with that same approach.

Before President Harry S. Truman decided to drop atomic bombs in Japan, he made a risk/reward analysis that although thousands of Japanese civilians would be killed, by ending the war sooner than later possibly several million lives on both sides could be saved. President Dwight D. Eisenhower made an assessment of the cost of American lives and treasure when the U.S. decided not to intervene to help Hungary in its fight against the Soviet Union in 1956.

President John F. Kennedy had no idea how long the United States would have to lend assistance to South Vietnam, or what the ultimate price would be. He wrote President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam on Dec. 14, 1961, with high hopes:

“If the Communist authorities in North Vietnam will stop their campaign to destroy the Republic of Viet-Nam, the measures we are taking to assist your defense efforts will no longer be necessary. We shall seek to persuade the Communists to give

Are we going to attempt to kill all the terrorists, or just enough so the remainder decide to call it quits? Would they quit?

up their attempts of force and subversion.”

When President Lyndon B. Johnson made the decision to send combat troops into Vietnam in early 1965, he did so not knowing how long the war might last and with little idea of the ultimate cost of American lives and treasure. No light could be seen at the end of the tunnel and there was no exit strategy.

What is the risk/reward in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria? Is keeping those countries free of Taliban rule, Islamic State rule, or rule by al-Qaida or affiliates worth hundreds or thousands more American lives and treasure? Is it worth potentially bankrupting our country both in terms of money and military personnel?

Terrorists can train for and plan attacks on our country whether they locate in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia or Iran. Are we going to attempt to kill all the terrorists, or just enough so the remainder decide to call it quits? Would they quit? Should we risk billions more dollars and possibly thousands more troops being killed, all because there is a perceived imminent threat to our national security?

Could we ever get rid of all the terrorist groups that threaten us?

Some say we should have stayed the course and preserved South Vietnam's freedom. Suppose we could have declared victory after several more years and at a total cost of 200,000 lives and \$2 trillion. Would victory have been worth the price? Or if we had won the Vietnam War when it ended in late January 1973, would preserving South Vietnam's freedom at a cost of more than 58,000 American lives and billions of dollars have been worth it? Perhaps we could have restored freedom for Hungary in 1956 after fighting the Soviet Union and winning, but in the process losing several hundred thousand American lives and at a cost of billions or trillions of dollars. Would that price have been worth the cost?

As Obama further refines an Islamic State strategy, hopefully he and his advisers will engage in an objective risk/reward analysis. The final strategy should not be to spend unlimited amounts of money and risk losing an unlimited number of troops, all in the interest of making our nation only partially safer. We should not allow any terrorist group to engage in “bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy.” Our strategy should be limited, targeted, and not one that risks burning down the barn to kill all the rats.

David Nelson served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is co-author of the book “David & Lee Roy: A Vietnam Story.” He lives in Houston.

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OPINION

Sanford's a smarmy son of South Carolina

By KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON

As a South Carolinian, it befalls me to examine the peculiarities afflicting our former governor and now-congressman Mark Sanford, who, contrary to decorum and taste, continues to demand attention.

Yes, that Mark Sanford—the erstwhile Appalachian Trail wanderer who in 2009 found himself not out hiking, as his gubernatorial staff had reported, but bedridden and besotted in Argentina with his long-time soul mate, Maria Belen Chapur.

Fast forward through a fearful news conference, during which Sanford all but plummeted to a fainting couch confessing his infidelity, through his high-profile separation from his wife, Jenny, then next to his mysterious re-election to the congressional seat he held prior to becoming governor and ... wait, fire the writer!

Not even a credulous soap opera viewer would buy a tale so tawdry and ridiculous. Not only is it not credible, it's pathetic. Moreover, leading men do not long hold an audience after they cry over themselves.

These events also remind us of two tropes in no danger of dismissal: Love is a form of temporary insanity, and anti-secessionist James Pettigru's 1860 assessment of his state "too small to be a republic and too large to be an insane asylum."

Fast forward again to a few days ago. Sanford, apparently finding unbearable his irrelevance and growing obscurity, decided to drop his manly charade and write a tawdry, long Facebook entry in which, among other true confessions, he announced the end of his engagement to Chapur.

"Dice que?" asked Chapur from Paris, where she had just spent a honeymoon-ish few days with Sanford.

Chapur knew they no longer engaged, but she didn't know that Sanford

had announced it on Facebook until, like President Barack Obama's occasional receipt of awful news, she heard it from the media. In Paris, Chapur had hoped for a wedding date, but was offered instead another two-year engagement. In light of which, one wonders what ever attracted at least two women to Sanford, whose charms remain elusive.

In his global missive, Sanford explained that he simply couldn't drag Chapur through any more of this nasty business with his wife (oh, he noticed?), which recently included a request that Sanford submit to a psychological examination before he is allowed to spend time with their youngest son, now 16.

This request is doubtless difficult for Sanford but, under the circumstances is hardly misplaced. Come to think of it, a state Department of Psychological Welfare might not be wasted.

"What is it about South Carolina?" is a question I'm frequently asked. From the former governor's mindless meanderings to the recent assault of the reality show "Southern Charm," starring former state Treasurer Thomas Ravenel, this baffling state seems determined to besaint the besotted and magnify the man-child.

With such public exemplars as Sanford and Ravenel, something, indeed, seems afoot—a shift away from the Southern stereotypes the national media love to exploit to a proud narcissism that knows no shame.

Traditionally, South Carolina has been stubbornly defiant, belliciously belligerent and heartbreakingly wounded by the humiliated state of its invaded neighbors. Now that everyone suddenly loves South Carolina—at least its beaches, its plantations and its crown jewel, Charleston—the natives are busting to pirouette on a pedestal. Add to these sudden tendencies the pestilential narcissism that breeds in social media like "skeeters" in the Low-



Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., represents a state anti-secessionist James Pettigru described in 1860 as "too small to be a republic and too large to be an insane asylum."

country marshes and you've got the Sanford & Ravenel Show.

A combo more frat house than Statehouse, they are the new fine-feathered fellows in the aviary of flighty men.

Ravenel, who comes from an old, well-regarded Charleston family and made a fortune on his own, is inexplicably trying to unseat the soon-to-be venerable Sen. Lindsey Graham. (He isn't quite old enough yet.) Ravenel doesn't stand a chance of winning because, among other things, he's not a serious person. Just watch the show, if you can stand it.

And then there's that talking about Rav-

enel serving 10 months in prison after a drug conviction.

Thus one wonders, why run? The answer can only be to try to fill that bottomless trough of narcissistic need.

I have a better idea for these two that ride the public of a nuisance and also might satisfy them. Put the two of them in a house together, get the cameras rolling, and document their bro-ish exploits. Call this one "Southern Smarm." Or, better yet, "Gamecocks."

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

There is no good reason for Scottish independence

By BRENDAN SIMMS AND JASON PACK

The gravest immediate threat to the West's long-term security does not emanate from Vladimir Putin or from the militants of the Islamic State. Rather, surprisingly, it comes from peace-loving Scots.

With polls now showing a majority of Scots supporting independence in the referendum set for Thursday, it's suddenly clear that Scotland is actually breaking away from Britain. In the words of Lord West of Spithead, former First Sea Lord, "A 'yes' vote for Scottish independence would make it more difficult to defend Britain. It would diminish NATO and the West's ability to do things."

Bluntly put, there is no rational upside for a 'yes' vote. In Scotland, the independence campaign runs on emotions alone. Abroad, its supporters are the postcolonial left who will revel in Britain's resultant weakness. Independence may increase Scotland's national pride, but its economy will suffer as companies and jobs flee south amid uncertainties about currency and taxation.

There will be no postcolonial dividend either. Unlike the "Irish question" of the 20th century, the Scottish question is not a running sore in European or trans-Atlantic politics. It does not involve a serious terrorist threat, nor would independence eliminate a destabilizing political movement—as would Corsican independence from France or Basque independence from Spain. Simply put, Scottish independence is a

solution in search of a problem. It would unwittingly destroy history's most successful political merger, the Anglo-Scottish Union of 1707, which enabled Britain to punch above its weight in the world, served as a model for the U.S. Constitution, and provided a dynamic core for a fiscal-military state that defeated its liberal and undemocratic opponents in World War I, World War II and the Cold War.

Scottish independence would seriously weaken Britain as America's most important ally and as one of the key pillars of the Western world's security posture in the Middle East. A geographically reduced Britain in the Guardian recently suggested that Britain without Scotland would be able to reduce its defense spending. But security is a positive-sum game. We are all safer when we work together and less safe when we compete or duplicate one another's efforts. The result is a geographically reduced Britain will have to spend more to defend less favorable borders.

England's northern flank would be exposed for the first time in 300 years. All planning against possible Russian encroachments will have to be rethought. Both sides of the Atlantic will have to wonder how henceforth become more reliant on the U.S. for their security and, therefore, less able to chart their own way in the world. Most vitally of all, the Scottish nationalists have announced that Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent, based on the west coast of Scotland, would have to be immediately moved, at an estimated cost

of \$8 billion. While Britain is struggling to recalibrate its defense posture amid such dislocations, Russia or the militant group Islamic State might seize the moment to further test Western resolve.

Scottish independence will inevitably cause headaches in continental Europe. It will open the floodgates for invigorated separatist demands from Catalonia and the Basques in Spain, the Northern League and South Tyroleans in Italy, and others. All this should be deeply worrying for the United States, which needs stable partners in London and Brussels capable of deterring Russian President Putin and (ideally) supporting the United States in other theaters as well.

Scottish nationalists naively seem to think global security will no longer be their concern. But leaving Britain will not mean that Scotland has changed neighborhoods. Scots may be able to opt out of foreign adventures in the Middle East but, since Russia's annexation of Crimea, Europe is once more a dangerous place. Will the newly independent Scots choose to move their country west toward Greenland? If not, who will protect Scottish natural resources against the kind of Russian encroachment that Norway routinely experiences?

There is thus a pervasive irony about Scots voluntarily breaking up a union designed in the 18th century to pool resources against foreign threats and thereby pitching themselves into a 21st-century world that is at its peak of post-WWII stability. Independent Scotland might find

it difficult to survive alone in such an environment. The only realistic "European" alternative would then be for Edinburgh to embrace the movement for deeper political, economic and military integration of the Eurozone. In that event, though, Scotland would own Europe's problems—the sovereign debt crises, immigration issues, the Russian threat and all. Moreover, its isolationist citizens would have to pay for profligate southerners. The supreme irony is that if the Scots vote for independence they may actually end up losing sovereignty over their own affairs.

Of course, neither Britain nor the world will go under if the Scots vote "yes" on Thursday. Even if copycat independence movements later detached Wales or Northern Ireland, England would always remain a power of enormous economic heft, military capability and cultural attraction. Still, England would be weakened by the destruction of the union—less able to act as a key U.S. ally and the main bridging power between the Atlantic and European systems. That would be a sorry day for all who value democracy, human liberty, economic freedom and the cradle of liberal Western civilization.

Brendan Simms is a professor of history at Cambridge University, chairman of the Project for Democratic Union and author of "Europe: The Struggle for Supremacy, 1453 to the Present." Jason Pack is a researcher of world history at Cambridge and president of Libya-Analysis.com. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Dragons serve with unusual balance

Boys and girls capable of pulling weight for Kubasaki tennis

By DAVE ORMAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa—For years, the narrative of Kubasaki tennis was, if the girls team was competitive, the boys weren't, or vice versa.

Dragons coach Stephanie Davis, who's been at the Kubasaki helm since 2009, hasn't had balance between the two. Until now.

Most of the boys from last year's team that contributed to Okinawa singles and doubles titles are back.

They're joined by a girls team that, for the first time since the 2008-10 seasons, possesses the needed depth to make a run at long-dominant Kadena for similar honors at the district tournaments, and perhaps make a dent at the Far East tournament in November.

"We've grown the girls and now we have a really balanced team of boys and girls," Davis said Wednesday, a day before the teams played for the second time this season.

"It's always been either the boys have done really good or the girls have done really good. This crew has grown up together and now they're both really fun to watch."

It's a team of veterans, all except a couple having been in Davis' program for at least two years.

Senior Mark Ebarle, who's been in Dragons green and white for four years, teamed with Brendan Neu to win those district titles a year ago.

"Any time that happens, it makes everybody stop and say, 'Hey, you know what? That can be me,'" Davis said.

Ebarle "has just grown, each and every year. He's such a great young man and such a great competitor. And he works so hard."

Ebarle, who possesses a hard serve and forehand, said he prefers baseball. He plays tennis year-round, though, and on weekends will bang the ball around with teammates Allie Powers and Adam Sani.

Powers is also a senior who takes lessons at Kadena Air Base's pro shop three times a week and plays on and off base against Japanese and adult players. She calls tennis a "passion."



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORMAUER/Stars and Stripes

Mark Ebarle, above, is Kubasaki's No. 1 boys singles seed and a four-year veteran of the tennis team.

Allie Powers, right, is Kubasaki's No. 1 girls singles seed and senior class president.

Same goes for diminutive sophomore Haley Agra, who also plays year round, against her tennis-playing father and in tournaments on or off base, "as many as I can do." Her signature shot is her backhand.

Sarah Walter, another senior in her second season with the program, tried cross country, softball and soccer and says she's finally found "a sport that I'm good at." She also plays year-round.

Mary Neitzke, a sophomore, takes lessons once a week and plays on and off base in tournaments, sometimes against adults.

Sani only plays in season and doesn't take lessons — "I never thought about it," — he said. But he also possesses some hard-hitting tools on the forehand side. Eric Heck, a third-year player, also doesn't take lessons but gets plenty of advice from his father, John, a 1988 Kubasaki graduate.

The younger players, especially, look up to the veterans and they see that "they can get there, too," Davis said.

"It's really motivating. Their skill level has improved, whether it's working on the courts



here or working on their own. Obviously, I have more kids taking lessons than I've had in the past, which has really helped a lot with technique."

Ebarle believes a deep run into the Far East tournament could be in the cards. "We haven't been this good in a long time, in the years I've been here," he said. "I think we can go a lot farther than we did last year, rack up a few more points, get a good finish."

Davis said the Dragons would give it their all every time they step on the court.

"We go back to the fact that anybody can win on any given day," she said. "It's attitude. It's a drive. It's what you want to put out there. And they have it. They're excited. They're going to face every opponent, give them the respect they deserve and go out there and go hard."

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Top performances

Football

Jamarlo Harris, Kadena: 146 yards of total offense, rushed for two touchdowns and passed for one, leading the Panthers to a 49-0 rout of American School In Japan in the first meeting between the schools.

Caeleb Ricafrente, M.C. Perry: Led a Samurai pullaway in the fourth quarter with 86 yards and a TD on 17 carries, lifting the Samurai to their first win in 11 years, 40-18 over Edgren.

Dre Paylor, Kinnick: Rushed for 135 yards on 19 carries with a TD and had seven tackles and a fumble recovery, boosting the Red Devils to a 22-18 win over defending Division I champion Kubasaki.

DeMarco Andrews, Daegu: Ran nine times for 121 yards and three TDs, helping the Warriors rally from a 12-0 deficit to score 38 unanswered points for a 38-12 victory.

Girls volleyball

Audri Salter, Kinnick: Had 19 spike kills as the Red Devils rallied from a two-set hole past Christian Academy Japan in five sets, 20-25, 12-25, 28-26, 25-16, 15-11.

Cross country

Daniel Galvin, Yokota: Ran the 2.9-mile Tama Hills Recreation Center course in 14 minutes, 59.6 seconds, becoming just the fourth high school runner in history to break the 15-minute barrier on Tama.



Dave Ormauer

Pacific sportsblog

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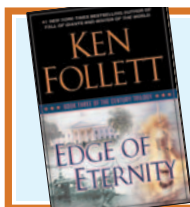


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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE



JENNIFER H. SWAN/Stars and Stripes

Bitburg's Frances Gatterburg and other runners take off at the start of last year's DODDS Europe cross country championships.

Cross country

Deep field of girls; clear boys favorite

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The last of five DODDS Europe fall sports toes the starting line Saturday as the 2014 boys and girls cross country season opens its six-week run with six meets across three countries.

Here's a look at some of the runners expected to contend for a European title Oct. 25 at Baumholder, Germany.

Girls

There's a perfect storm brewing, and the result might be the most competitive season in recent memory.

The dominant reigning champion, Baileigh Sessions of Patch, has moved on after winning her third straight European title as a senior.

But every member of the pack that closely followed her returns: The next five finishers from last year's European championship race are back for another run at the crown.

With five seasoned competitors chasing one newly-vacant championship, each week is sure to produce close races punctuated by the season-ending championships.

The list of contenders starts with Ramstein senior Madison Morse. She posted the best time of the regular season last fall, a 19-minute 29-second effort Oct. 19 that was 17 seconds better than any other runner, including Sessions, clocked. But she slipped to second at the championship as Sessions completed her trifecta.

And just because Sessions is gone doesn't mean Patch's long-held grip on the top spot will slip. Panther Kelleen McGuinness will seek to upgrade her strong third-place showing in 2013 to the top spot this fall.

The return of Morse and McGuinness would be enough for

an interesting race. But the field gets thicker from there with the return of last year's respective fourth, fifth and sixth place European finishers: Kirsten Carlson of Brussels, Kelly McCaskill of Ansbach and Marra Lops of Lakenheath.

Meanwhile, the footsteps of the next wave of DODDS Europe contenders fall ever louder. That contingent is led by sophomores Frances Gatterburg of Bitburg, last year's ninth-place finisher, and Naples' Katye Cairns.

Boys

While the girls side is arguably more competitive than last year, the boys field has thinned. That leaves reigning champion Mitchell Bailey of Patch as a definitive frontrunner.

Bailey's margins of victory were thin last year. He posted the best time of the 2013 regular season with a 16:27 in a race he won by a single second. He wrapped up his fall campaign in slightly more comfortable fashion with a 12-second victory at the European championship race. Now a senior, Bailey is back for more.

What's unclear is who will give him a similar challenge.

Roster turnover has eroded the talent bases at the large schools that historically produce most individual contenders. The affected programs include Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern, Vilseck and Bailey's own Patch squad, all of which lose top-15 finishers from last year's race.

But Bailey won't win the crown unopposed. Fourth-place European finisher Ryan Parker of Wiesbaden returns. Ramstein's Harrison Adams is back after finishing eighth in last year's title race, as are Royals teammates and fellow top-25 finishers John Casey and Luke Stotts.

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Top performances in Europe

Football

Roger Brownell, Ansbach: The senior's contributions to Saturday's rout of Naples were legion: 16 rushes for 162 yards and two touchdowns; a 25-yard touchdown catch; 231 total yards, including a 44-yard kickoff return; five tackles, tied for the team's best; and a fumble recovery.

David Vidovic, Hohenfels: The reigning Stars and Stripes football Athlete of the Year resumed his assault on DODDS Europe history with a 291-yard, five-touchdown effort in a win over Alconbury on Saturday.

CJ Pridden, Wiesbaden: The two-way star stuffed the stat sheet with a 75-yard rushing touchdown, a 32-yard touchdown reception and a pair of interceptions.

Mario Molina, Vicenza: The Cougar quarterback threw for four touchdowns and ran for a fifth in leading his team to a season-opening shutout win over rival Aviano.

Jonas Camacho, Rota: The Admiral pulled rank on the host Bucs with 135 rushing yards and two touchdowns in a convincing 27-0 shutout over Baumholder.

Volleyball

Viyanni Johnson, Aviano: The Saints beat rival Vicenza twice on Saturday thanks in large part to a combined 30 assists from Johnson.

Bella Sahrstein, Hohenfels: The Tigers swept regional foes Vilseck and Ansbach behind the eagle-eyed efforts of Sahrstein, who landed 43 of 44 serves in play and notched four aces.

Jessica Wheeler, Naples: The Wildcat hitter helped finish off two wins over Signella on Friday and Saturday with a combined eight kills.

Tennis

Nathan Short, Lakenheath: The Lancer ace enjoyed a winning Benelux road trip Friday and Saturday, picking up No. 1 singles wins at Brussels and AFNORTH on his travels.

Marina Fortun, Patch: The former DODDS-Europe doubles champion and singles hopeful won every game in singles and doubles wins at Vilseck on Saturday.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Winston punished for vulgar remark

Florida State QB to sit out first half Saturday

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—James Winston has been benched for the first half of Saturday's game against Clemson after making "offensive and vulgar" comments about women, and Florida State officials said that the quarterback will undergo internal discipline.

The decision was announced Wednesday in a joint statement by Florida State interim President Dr. Garnett S. Stokes and athletic director Stan Wilcox. Several students tweeted Winston stood on campus Tuesday and shouted a lascivious comment that may have derived from an internet meme.

The president and AD said, "As the university's most visible ambassadors, student-athletes at Florida State are expected to uphold at all times high standards of integrity and behavior that reflect well upon themselves, their families, coaches, teammates, the Department of Athletics and Florida State University. Student-athletes are expected to act in a way that reflects dignity and respect for others."

Winston's latest questionable off-field decision-making lack comes when Florida State is under scrutiny.

Florida State is currently under investigation by the Department of Education for the way it handles reports of sexual assault, including a case involving Winston. The investigation was prompted by a complaint from a FSU student who says Winston assaulted her in 2012.

A Florida State Attorney declined to press charges against Winston last fall.

A lawyer for the woman says the university is currently conducting its own investigation of that incident.

Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher had said earlier Wednesday that the quarterback would be held accountable for his "degenerative" remarks.

Winston is no stranger to unwanted attention.

While playing for Florida State baseball team, he was suspended for three games and completed 20 hours of community service after acknowledging he stole \$32 worth of crab legs from a local grocery store in April.

Mayor: Plenty of buyers interested in Hawks

ATLANTA — The mayor has already heard from plenty of potential buyers for the Atlanta Hawks. And the city is ready to kick in a hefty sum to make the deal happen.

Flanked by Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins and other city leaders, Mayor Kasim Reed said Tuesday he expects the sale of the team to move briskly after

racially charged comments by owner Bruce Levenson and general manager Danny Ferry.

"I have had conversations with no less than six prospective buyers," Reed said during a City Hall news conference.

The Hawks have been under fire since it was revealed Levenson sent an email two years ago theorizing that many suburban whites would not attend NBA games because of the team's African-American fans. He agreed to sell his share of the team, but it also emerged that Ferry had disparaged then-free agent Luol Deng on a conference call with team owners last summer, saying he "has a little African in him."

Ferry has taken an indefinite leave of absence.

Grand jury to decide if Stewart to be charged

The decision whether to charge three-time NASCAR champion Tony Stewart in the August death of a fellow driver at a sprint car race in upstate New York will be up to a grand jury.

Ontario County District Attorney Michael Tantillo said Tuesday he made the decision to present the case to a grand jury after reviewing evidence collected by sheriff's investigators. Tantillo could have determined there was not enough evidence to support charges and dropped the case, but instead announced his decision more than a month after Stewart's car struck and killed Kevin Ward Jr. at a dirt-track race on Aug. 9.

In a statement, Stewart said he respects the time and effort authorities have spent "investigating this tragic accident."

Stewart-Haas Racing said Stewart will race at Sunday's NASCAR event at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Stewart spent three weeks in seclusion before returning for the final two races of the Sprint Cup season. He did not make the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field, and finished 18th in the first Chase race Sunday at Chicagoland.

County Sheriff Philip Povero spent weeks investigating the accident at the small track in Canandaigua, several times saying investigators did not have any evidence to support criminal intent by Stewart. Ward had spun while racing alongside Stewart and then the 20-year-old climbed out of his car and walked down the track, waving his arms in an apparent attempt to confront the 43-year-old NASCAR veteran.

Experts have said Stewart could be charged with second-degree manslaughter under New York law if prosecutors believe he "recklessly caused the death of another person," with negligent homicide another possibility.



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SERVICE

Beauty Salon

Bank/Credit Union (on base/post)

Day Spa

Dentist

Doctor

SERVICE (Continued)

Immobilien/Realty Service

SHOPPING

Auto Dealership

Electronics Store

Exchange Store (on base/post)

Furniture Store

Grocery Store

Home Improvement Center

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Lodging (on base/post)

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NFL

Backs emerge as Bengals stay unbeaten

By JOE KAY

The Associated Press

Giovani Bernard headed up the field, saw Falcons defensive end Jonathan Massaquoi in his way and did a high-hurdle move to clear him.

It's hard to catch Bernard in space. And it's going to be tough to keep up with the Bengals' offense if he and running mate Jeremy Hill continue developing as the dual-threat backfield that left Atlanta grasping and gasping.

Bernard was the Bengals' top runner and pass catcher, and Hill scored his first touchdown during a 24-10 victory over the Falcons. The Bengals (2-0) stayed undefeated even though their offense was hit hard by injuries to the receivers and tight ends.

'I think we are starting to build some chemistry together.'

Jeremy Hill
Bengals RB

said. "It's the effort, it's the attitude, it's the intangibles and we feel like there's not a phase of the game we can't do if we play that way."

And the two young running backs are quickly turning into something special.

Bernard moved into the starting role this season, his second in the NFL, and had his breakout game. He carried a career-high 27 times for 90 yards and caught a team-high five passes for a career-best 79 yards.

"I think he's one of the better backs in the league at catching the ball and getting into the open field," said Hill, a second-round pick who carried 15 times for 74 yards, both career highs.

When Bernard got free, he was tough to grab. The Falcons had trouble getting their hands on him as he twisted and hurdled.

"I just try to make plays, man," the 5-foot-9, 208-pound running



No longer reliant on the Andy-Dalton-to-A.J. Green connection through the air to win games, the Cincinnati Bengals' running back tandem of Giovani Bernard, left, and rookie Jeremy Hill (32), a second-round pick from LSU, have the Bengals in first place in the AFC North at 2-0.

back said. "At the end of the day, as long as you can make plays whichever way you can — whether it's with a spin or hurdle or just running through people — you just have to be able to make plays."

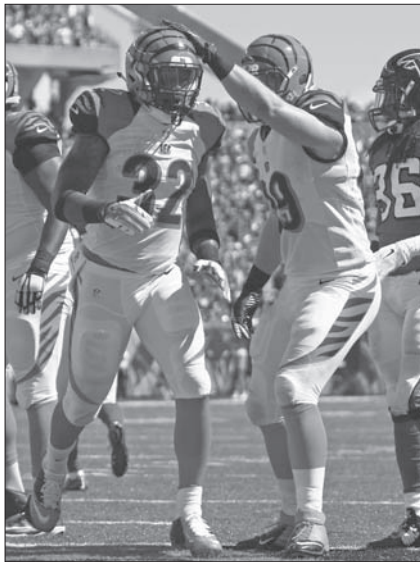
Their opening drive on Sunday showed their versatility. The running backs got the ball on each of the first eight plays — Bernard ran five times and caught one pass, Hill carried once and caught a pass.

Pro Bowl receiver A.J. Green left during the opening drive because he aggravated an injured toe on his right foot, which limited him in practice during the week. Cincinnati already was missing tight end Tyler Eifert and receiver Marvin Jones because of injuries.

Offensive coordinator Hue Jackson decided to let the runners lead the way. Jackson has been emphasizing the running game more this season to take some pressure off Andy Dalton and become more balanced on offense.

Cincinnati is no longer reliant on Dalton-to-Green to win games. "I think that is what they envisioned when they drafted me, for Gio and I to be a one-two punch," Hill said. "I think he and I complement each other well. Anytime he got a little tired, I came in and spelled him. And he did the same thing for me."

"I think we are really starting to build some chemistry together. We are going to be a duo to be dealt with this year. I'm excited and really looking forward to it."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CONROY AND FRANK VICTORES/AP

By the numbers

90 **74** **1**

Number of yards gained by Bengals RB Giovanni Bernard, a career high, on 27 carries against Atlanta.

Number of yards gained by Jeremy Hill on 15 carries against Atlanta, both career bests for the Bengals rookie running back.

Bengals' rank among AFC teams in total offense with 852 yards in two games, an average of 426 yards per game.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

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NEX **X**
EXCHANGE

NFL



BECK DIPENBACH/AP

Raiders wide receiver James Jones, right, fumbles as he's tackled by Texans cornerback Johnathan Joseph during the second quarter of Sunday's game in Oakland, Calif.

Ball-hawking defense

Forcing turnovers key to Texans' early success

By KRISTIE RIEKKE

The Associated Press

The Houston Texans had the worst turnover margin in the NFL when they went 2-14 last season.

Two games into this year, and Houston is tied for second-best in the league in that category at plus-five. The Texans forced four turnovers in Sunday's 30-14 win at Oakland, using a couple of big plays by the secondary to improve to 2-0 after dropping their last 14 games in 2013.

"That's something that we ... drive on, even in practice," free safety Kendrick Lewis said. "It showed up after the game. Guys going after the ball, no matter if it's a running back breaking through, if it's a receiver catching the ball and turning up. We're stripping at the ball, trying to cause turnovers any way we can."

Lewis has been a nice addition to Houston's defense, starting both games at free safety. He spent his first four years in the NFL in Kansas City, where he started 15 games last season and finished with 56 tackles and an interception.

Houston grabbed two interceptions and recovered two fumbles against the Raiders. One play in that game illustrated the mindset that Lewis described.

Oakland's James Jones grabbed a 26-yard pass and Lewis stripped the ball. Jones picked it up and ran for 15 yards before Johnathan Joseph stripped it again, and this

Did you know

The Texans are 8-0 in franchise history when they have four more turnovers than their opponent.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

time D.J. Swearingin recovered for the Texans.

"I think it can get contagious," fifth-year cornerback Kareem Jackson said. "One guy goes out and makes a play and the next guy wants to go out and make one. For us as a defense it becomes contagious and I think that's a great thing for us."

Jackson, who had a career-long 65-yard interception return on Sunday, said after their inability to force turnovers a year ago, they made a conscious effort to change things in 2014.

"Last year we always talked about it and we always practiced it, we just never went out and did it," he said. "This year I think everybody has that: 'Let's go out and make a play' mentality."

The Texans converted the turnovers into 10 points and improved to 8-0 in franchise history when they are plus-four in turnover margin.

"There's a little bit of luck in-

volved sometimes in it, but I think overall it's a very aggressive defense and aggressive defense," coach Bill O'Brien said. "Guys are trying to make plays on the ball."

While the secondary forced the bulk of the turnovers on Sunday, the group noted that Houston's defensive front, led by defensive end J.J. Watt, contributed to its success. Lewis pointed out that pressure on the quarterback makes it easier for the defensive backs to make plays.

Veteran left tackle Duane Brown raved about how much the defense's ability to force turnovers has helped the offense so far this season.

"It's huge," Brown said. "When they force a turnover we just want to get down there and score to reward them for what they've done."

The offense also has contributed to the turnaround in turnover margin, having lost the ball just one time this season. A large part of Houston's undoing last season was Matt Schaub throwing nine interceptions in the first six games before being benched.

"[Games] come down to third-down conversions, they come down to red area percentage and then obviously, probably most importantly, they come down to turnovers," O'Brien said. "So, if you're the team that doesn't turn it over and the other team does turn it over, then you've got a heck of a shot to win and our team is doing a pretty good job of that right now."

Statistics

AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks				
	Att	Comp	Yds	TD
P. Manning, DEN	55	43	511	6
Fitzpatrick, HOU	41	28	345	3
Dalton, CIN	40	25	350	2
P. Rivers, IND	39	24	322	4
Manuel, BUF	48	32	375	2
Hoyer, CLE	71	43	434	2
Luck, IND	87	55	542	5
Locker, TEN	67	40	500	2
Flacco, BAL	91	56	511	3
Roethlisberger, PIT	71	45	582	1

Runners				
	Att	Yds	LG	TD
A. Foster, HOU	21	105	132	48
L. Bell, PIT	32	168	52	381
West, CLE	35	168	48	29
Ivory, NYJ	23	145	63	711
Bernard, CIN	41	138	37	16
Moreno, MIA	25	138	52	15
Mo. Ball, DEN	35	127	36	23
Forsett, BAL	19	126	63	41
Ridley, NYE	33	122	30	16
Spiller, BUF	27	122	45	47

Receivers				
	No	Yds	LG	TD
Sanders, DEN	21	185	132	48
A. Hawkins, CLE	14	157	112	28
Smith Sr., BAL	13	189	145	80
D. Walker, TEN	13	179	138	611
Gates, SNO	13	177	136	34
Pitts, BAL	24	113	24	13
Am. Brown, PIT	12	106	172	41
Edelman, NYE	17	176	141	34
And. Johnson, HOU	12	167	139	23
Jam. Jones, OAK	12	146	122	42

Punters				
	No	Yds	LG	Avg
McAfee, IND	8	430	61	52.5
Lechler, HOU	8	406	65	50.8
Kern, TEN	11	529	63	48.1
Anger, JAX	16	755	61	47.2
Koch, BAL	6	279	56	46.5
B. Collett, DEN	8	365	53	45.8
Quigley, NYJ	10	454	56	45.4
R. Allen, NYE	10	452	63	45.2
Wing, PIT	10	445	56	44.5
Lanning, CLE	12	522	57	43.5

Punt Returners				
	No	Yds	LG	TD
Ad. Jones, CIN	4	41	17.8	45
Edelman, NYE	4	81	13.4	34
Jac. Jones, BAL	4	49	12.3	33
Am. Brown, PIT	6	59	11.8	36
McKinnell, BUF	3	30	10.0	14
Hannam Jr., KAN	16	49	12.2	30
Quigley, NYJ	3	23	7.7	12
Whalen, IND	9	68	7.6	22
Mc. Brown, JAX	5	37	4	13
J. Landry, MIA	5	31	6.2	16

Kickoff Returners				
	No	Yds	LG	TD
Spiller, BUF	3	151	50.3	1021
Jac. Jones, BAL	1	109	47	47
Todman, JAX	1	73	24.7	40
L. Murray, OAK	8	172	38	38
J. Landry, MIA	5	113	22.6	29
Hakim, NYA	4	86	21.5	44
T. Benjamin, CLE	1	8	1.9	13
L. Washington, TEN	5	69	13.8	22

Touchdowns				
	TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
Ju. Thomas, DEN	3	0	4	24
Gates, SNO	0	3	0	18
Bradshaw, IND	1	0	0	12
O'Connell, CLE	2	3	0	12
S. Daniels, BAL	2	0	0	12
K. Davis, KAN	2	0	0	12
H. Harris, BAL	2	0	0	12
D. Hopkins, HOU	2	0	0	12
Harris, JAX	2	0	0	12
Ivory, NYJ	2	0	0	12
Jam. Jones, OAK	2	0	0	12

Kicking				
	Yds	FG	LG	Pts
D. Carpenter, BUF	44	8-9	50	28
Nugent, CIN	3-3	6-10	49	21
Goetschowski, NYE	5-5	8-10	48	30
Sturges, MIA	5-5	4-4	38	19
San Diego, BAL	3-3	5-5	43	18
T. Sulist, PIT	3-3	5-5	43	18
Tucker, BAL	3-3	5-5	38	18
Bullock, HOU	1-1	6-6	17	12
Cumduff, CLE	5-5	4-4	39	17
Novak, SNO	5-5	4-4	50	17

AFC team statistics

OFFENSE			
	Yds	Rush	Pass
Cincinnati	426.0	142.0	301.5
Pittsburgh	402.0	113.0	289.0
Indianapolis	374.5	111.5	263.0
Baltimore	370.0	125.5	247.5
Tennessee	361.0	115.5	245.5
N.Y. Jets	357.0	170.0	178.0
San Diego	355.5	155.5	204.0
Denver	343.0	95.0	248.0
Buffalo	337.5	153.0	184.5
Atlanta	334.5	116.5	218.0
Miami	325.0	135.5	189.5
Oakland	324.0	151.5	172.5
Carolina	312.5	100.0	212.5
New England	303.5	119.5	184.0
San Francisco	291.0	63.0	198.0
Jacksonville	227.0	44.5	182.5

DEFENSE			
	Yds	Rush	Pass
N.Y. Jets	274.5	52.5	221.5
New England	268.5	116.5	152.0
Tennessee	306.5	143.5	163.0
San Diego	324.0	150.0	214.0
Baltimore	340.5	89.0	251.5
San Francisco	345.0	160.0	185.0
Pittsburgh	356.0	170.0	186.0
Buffalo	358.5	83.0	275.5
Atlanta	364.5	200.0	164.5
Kansas City	365.0	128.0	237.0
San Francisco	365.0	150.5	214.5
Houston	368.0	116.0	252.0
Denver	394.0	193.5	300.5
Indianapolis	434.5	168.0	266.5
Cleveland	450.0	150.5	299.5

NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks				
	Att	Comp	Yds	TD
R. Wilson, SEA	53	36	393	2
K. Cousins, WAS	33	22	250	2
A. Anderson, CAR	40	25	322	4
C. Palmer, ARI	37	24	304	2
C. Newton, CAR	34	22	281	1
D. Miller, CHI	64	36	422	2
Griffin III, WAS	40	31	305	0
A. Rodgers, GBY	67	40	525	2
M. Stafford, DET	80	49	637	3
Brees, NOR	82	56	570	3

Runners				
	Att	Yds	LG	TD
D. Murray, DAL	51	285	58	1
A. Morris, WAS	36	176	48	23
Rainey, TAM	26	180	33	0
M. McCoy, ARI	41	153	37	21
M. Lynch, SEA	26	146	56	21
A. Ellington, ARI	28	144	54	22
Ma. Ingram, NOR	24	143	59	26
Gore, SFO	29	125	40	25
Stacy, STL	30	114	38	12
R. Jennings, NYG	34	110	32	14

Receivers				
	No	Yds	LG	TD
J. Nelson, GBY	18	252	162	80
J. Graham, NOR	18	200	111	23
Ma. Bennett, CHI	15	107	71	17
Ju. Jones, ATL	14	204	146	27
Quick, STL	14	173	124	23
B. Bryant, DAL	14	173	113	22
O. Olsen, CAR	14	155	111	22
Cal. Johnson, DET	13	247	130	67
B. Marshall, CHI	11	112	171	4
Fortie, CHI	13	102	78	18

Punters				
	No	Yds	LG	Avg
C. Jones, DAL	12	634	61	52.8
Way, WAS	9	445	61	49.4
S. Martin, DET	7	342	64	48.9
Anger, ARI	14	682	61	47.8
A. Lee, SFO	9	423	56	47.4
Hekker, STL	7	377	47	54.1
Bosher, ATL	5	237	46	47.0
Lockett, MIN	10	465	57	46.5
J. Ryan, SEA	12	551	57	45.9
Norlake, CAR	10	465	57	45.9

Punt Returners				
	No	Yds	LG	TD
S. Patton, TAM	8	96	11.2	33
Sproules, PHL	8	96	10.9	22
Roberts, WAS	5	95	10.6	37
Hekker, STL	3	3	7.7	18
P. Brown, CAR	9	44	8.8	23
A. Parker, NYG	4	9	3.3	13
B. Ellington, SFO	5	37	7.4	19
Dw. Harris, DAL	3	15	5.0	15
J. Austin, STL	6	13	2.8	19

Kickoff Returners				
	No	Yds	LG	TD
Hester, ATL	5	139	27.8	36
S. Patton, TAM	4	123	24.6	38
Philander, CAR	3	73	27.7	29
C. Patterson, MIN	3	71	23.7	29
Gale, NOR	3	68	23.7	29
Dempis, NYG	7	157	22.4	29
Harvin, SEA	6	128	21.3	31
J. Austin, STL	3	115	28	40
Ginn Jr., ARI	5	77	15.4	21

Touchdowns				
	TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
B. Marshall, CHI	4	0	4	24
Cobb, GBY	0	3	0	12
Ma. Ingram, NOR	3	0	0	12
M. Lynch, SEA	3	2	1	18
Ma. Bennett, CHI	2	0	0	12
Ve. Davis, SFO	2	0	0	12
J. Graham, NOR	2	0	0	12
D. Johnson, DET	2	0	0	12
Macinn, PHL	2	0	0	12
J. McCown, TAM	2	0	0	12

D. Bailey, DAL	4-4	5-5	51	19
Catanzaro, ARI	1-1	6-6	49	19
Zuerlein, STL	1-1	6-7	56	19
Gano, CAR	3-3	5-6	53	18
Mat. Bryant, ATL	5-5	4-4	52	17
S. Graham, NOR	7-7	3-3	50	16
Crosby, GBY	3-3	4-4	55	15
Hauschka, SEA	7-7	2-2	35	13
Dawson, SNF	6-6	2-3	27	12

NFL

Union appeals Rice suspension

BALTIMORE — The NFL players' union has appealed the league's indefinite suspension of Ray Rice.

Rice was originally handed a two-game suspension in July under the NFL's personal conduct policy after he was charged with assault following a Feb. 15 altercation with his then-fiancee in a casino elevator.

The Baltimore running back had already served the first game of that suspension when, on Sept. 8, a video surfaced showing Rice punching Janay Palmer, now his wife, in that elevator.

Within hours, the Ravens released Rice and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell extended the suspension to indefinite based on the "new evidence."

Goodell and the Ravens say they never saw the video before Sept. 8.

The NFL Players Association had until 11:59 p.m. local time Tuesday to file the appeal.

Jaguars shuffle offensive line

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars are making changes — just not the one many outsiders want to see.

The Jaguars announced Wednesday that rookie Luke Bowanko will start at center against Indianapolis on Sunday and veteran Sam Young will start at right tackle. Chad Henne, however, remains the starting quarterback ahead of rookie Blake Bortles.

Coach Gus Bradley made the moves after one of the worst offensive performances in team history. Jacksonville allowed a franchise-record 10 sacks and managed just 148 yards — including a 63-yard, busted-coverage touchdown pass from Henne to tight end Marcedes Lewis — in a 41-10 loss at Washington.

Bowanko replaces journeyman Jacques McClendon. Young replaces Cam Bradford, who was waived Tuesday.

Pouncey returns to practice

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins starting center Mike Pouncey practiced Tuesday for the first time since undergoing hip surgery back in July.

Pouncey, who was selected to his first Pro Bowl last season, confirmed that he participated in every drill. But he is leaving it up to the team doctors to determine his status for Sunday's home game against the Kansas City Chiefs at Sun Life Stadium.

"I feel like I can play but it's not my decision," Pouncey said. "I did everything today, just getting back in the groove and it felt good to be back out there."

The fourth-year pro had rehabbed all through training camp, the preseason and the first two weeks of the regular season. His progress was such that the team opted to keep him on the 53-man roster after the final cuts rather than place him on the Physically Unable to Perform list.

— The Associated Press



ELIZABETH FLORES, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Initially, the Minnesota Vikings told running back Adrian Peterson he could play while he worked out his legal problems. That changed after sponsors and fans criticized the Vikings' decision. Now Peterson is banned from all team activities.

Peterson banned by Vikings

Heavy criticism from fans, sponsors causes team to reverse course

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — After a day of public pressure from angry fans and concerned sponsors, the Minnesota Vikings have reversed course and banned running back Adrian Peterson from team activities while he addresses child abuse charges in Texas.

The Vikings made the announcement early Wednesday morning, about a day and a half after initially deciding that Peterson could play with the team while the legal process played out. Peterson is charged with a felony for using a stick to spank his 4-year-old son.

The Vikings came under heavy criticism for their initial stance. Several sponsors responded by either suspending their deals with the Vikings or severing ties with Peterson.

"While we were trying to make a bal-

anced decision yesterday, after further reflection we have concluded that this resolution is best for the Vikings and for Adrian," owners Zygi and Mark Wolf said in a statement. "We want to be clear: we have a strong stance regarding the protection and welfare of children, and we want to be sure we get this right. At the same time we want to express our support for Adrian and acknowledge his seven-plus years of outstanding commitment to this organization and this community."

‘After further reflection we have concluded that this resolution is best for the Vikings and for Adrian.’

Zygi and Mark Wolf
Vikings owners

The about-face came after the Radisson

hotel chains suspended a sponsorship with the Vikings, and Papa John's restaurants were also considering doing the same.

Castrol Motor Oil, Special Olympics Minnesota and health-care company Mylan Inc. all severed ties with Peterson, and Nike stores in the Twin Cities pulled Peterson's jerseys from shelves.

In addition, brewer Anheuser-Busch issued a strongly worded statement that said it was "disappointed and increasingly concerned" with the negative attention brought to the league by Ray Rice's assault on his wife and Peterson's treatment of his son.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton and Sen. Al Franken were among the many who called on Tuesday for the Vikings to reconsider their position and suspend Peterson.

Peterson has said he was disciplining his son the same way his own father disciplined him while growing up in Texas and didn't intend to hurt him.

STARS AND STRIPES

NFL HALL OF FAME Challenge

Weekly Winner prizes sponsored by

AutoZone

Brought to you by

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Sponsored by



Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Top Scores for Week 2

254	SUPER SOLDIER	Fort Sill
224	DevilDawgz	MCB Quantico
204	cowboyfanVA	JBLM
200	Brett Favre 01	Giessen
198	Jersey Jarhead	Pentagon
196	ssgcook68	Elmendorf-Richardson
190	harriso56	Germisheim
190	brandonttrail	Patch Barracks
188	Nothing But A Good Time	Fort Drum
188	Mirb	Landstuhl

Top 10 Overall Scores

422	CWill	Ramstein
400	christophercheagle	Fort Sam Houston
394	Illinois Pack Fan	Scott AFB, IL
380	SUPER SOLDIER	Fort Sill
378	Minuteman	Dover Air Force Base
376	gobucsgo	PHCR-Europe
374	el_guapo	Fort Bragg
372	hLc16th	Wright Patterson AFB
370	spudg21	Fort Lee
364	brutusmaximus	Hohenfels

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

	East	West	Pct	GB
x-Baltimore	91	60	.613	13½
Toronto	76	74	.507	14½
New York	76	74	.507	14½
Tampa Bay	76	74	.507	14½
Boston	66	85	.437	25
Central Division				
Detroit	82	68	.556	—
Kansas City	72	68	.547	1½
Minnesota	72	68	.547	1½
Chicago	69	82	.457	15
St. Louis	68	87	.444	20
West Division				
Los Angeles	94	57	.623	—
Oakland	87	64	.573	7½
Seattle	81	69	.540	12½
San Diego	72	74	.494	17
Texas	58	92	.387	35½

National League

	East	West	Pct	GB
x-Washington	75	76	.497	12½
Atlanta	75	76	.497	12½
New York	73	79	.480	15
Philadelphia	62	87	.417	18½
Central Division				
St. Louis	83	68	.550	—
Pittsburgh	80	70	.523	2½
Milwaukee	77	72	.523	4
Cincinnati	67	84	.444	16
Chicago	67	84	.444	16
West Division				
Los Angeles	85	65	.570	—
San Francisco	83	68	.550	3
San Diego	70	79	.469	15½
Arizona	62	89	.411	24
Colorado	58	94	.387	26

c-zinched playoff berth
x-clinched division title

Tuesday's games

pittsburgh, 4 Boston 0	
Baltimore, 6 Toronto 0	
Tampa Bay, 6 N.Y. Yankees 1	
Colorado, 7 Kansas City 5	
Oakland, 4 Houston 2	
San Diego, 4 Detroit 3	
Seattle, 13 L.A. Angels 2	
Los Angeles, 9 Oakland 5	
N.Y. Mets, 5 Miami 1	
Washington, 3 Atlanta 0	
Cincinnati, 10 St. Louis 1	
Milwaukee, 3 St. Louis 12	
Colorado, 10 L.A. Dodgers 4	
San Francisco, 2 Arizona 1	
San Diego, 1 Philadelphia 1	

Wednesday's games

Boston at Pittsburgh	
Atlanta at Baltimore	
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay	
Colorado at St. Louis	
Cleveland at Houston	
San Diego at Minnesota	
Seattle at L.A. Angels	
Los Angeles at Oakland	
L.A. Dodgers at St. Louis	
San Francisco at Arizona	
San Diego at St. Louis	
Washington at Atlanta	
Cincinnati at Chicago	
Milwaukee at St. Louis	
Philadelphia at St. Louis	

Thursday's games

Texas (M-Martinez 3-11) at Oakland (Gray 13-9)	
Boston (Workman 1-9) at Pittsburgh (Gonzalez 9-5)	
Toronto (Dickey 13-12) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 10-1)	
Cleveland (Salazar 6-7) at Houston (Feldman 8-11)	
Seattle (Fernandez 14-5) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 17-8)	
San Francisco (Fister 14-6) at Miami (Hand 3-7)	
Los Angeles (Greinke 15-8) at Chicago Cubs (Wade 4-3)	
Milwaukee (Lohse 12-9) at St. Louis (Smillie 9-9)	
Arizona (Nuno 0-6) at Colorado (Flande 0-7)	
Philadelphia (Kendrick 9-12) at San Diego (Erin 3-4)	

Friday

White Sox 7, Royals 5

Washington at Atlanta
 Cincinnati at Chicago
 Milwaukee at St. Louis
 Philadelphia at St. Louis
 Kansas City at St. Louis
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MLB

Nats back as NL East champions

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Washington Nationals celebrated like a team that expected to be in this position a year ago. They snapped plenty of selfies. They sprayed beer on just about anything that moved. They romped to Lil Jon's party anthem "Turn Down for What."

Now that they've made up for lost time, it's time to get back to work.

The Nationals don't want another one-and-done trip to the playoffs.

Returning to the top of the NL East, Washington wrapped up its second division title in three years on Tuesday night with a 3-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves, the team that won the division crown a year ago.

Tanner Roark pitched five-hit ball over seven innings and Ian Desmond's two-run homer broke a scoreless tie in the sixth, sending Washington back to the playoffs with nearly two weeks to spare.

"Nice to have it done," said Washington first baseman Adam LaRoche, who began his career with the Braves. "The sooner, the better."

The rivals battled neck-and-neck much of this season. In fact, they were tied for first at the All-Star break.

But the Braves faded down the stretch, unable to overcome a feeble offense. The Nationals kept right on winning, even though outfielder Bryce Harper and pitcher Stephen Strasburg have yet to become the breakout stars everyone expected.

Harper is hitting .269 with 13 homers and 32 RBIs. Strasburg is 12-11 with a 3.34 ERA.

But the Nationals have relied on superior depth to make up for the shortcomings of their young stars. Desmond, LaRoche, Jayson Werth and Anthony Rendon all have at least 80 RBIs. Roark (14-10) and Doug Fister (14-6) are pacing the team in wins, while Jordan Zimmermann (12-5) and Gio Gonzalez (8-10) will make it tough to pare down the rotation for the postseason.

"It's not just one thing," Werth said. "We've got a lot of talent."

Washington is 1½ games ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the race for home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs.

The Nationals will be making just the third playoff appearance in the franchise's 46-year history. The club reached the postseason only once as the Montreal Expos (the strike season of 1981) before moving to Washington for the 2005 season.

"It's just one step. There's a long, hard road ahead of us," Werth said. "We're going to enjoy the moment for now."



Arizona Diamondbacks shortstop Cliff Pennington tags out the San Francisco Giants' Brandon Crawford (35) trying to advance to third base in the fifth inning of Tuesday's game in Phoenix. The Giants won 2-1.

RICK SCUTNER/AP

Roundup

Peavy, Posey help Giants slide past Diamondbacks

San Francisco gains ground on LA for NL West title

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Jake Peavy put an end to San Francisco's slide and gave the Giants more hope of winning the NL West.

Peavy pitched into the eighth inning, Buster Posey homered and San Francisco gained a game in the division race with a 2-1 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday night.

The victory, combined with the Dodgers' 10-4 loss at Colorado, left the Giants three games behind first-place Los Angeles with 11 to play. San Francisco snapped a three-game losing streak and remained 2½ games ahead of Pittsburgh for the NL's top wild-card spot.

"Tonight was a big game," Peavy said. "We had to have it after the way we dropped the last three. I feel very blessed to feel healthy and go out there and be a contributing factor to a team that's fighting for our lives every day."

Peavy (6-4), acquired from Boston on July 26, allowed a run and five hits in 7½ innings, striking out four and walking one.

"He's been a pleasure to watch," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "You just love how he competes out there. He's got so much intensity in every game he throws. His command's been really right on. He's been a real shot in the arm for this club."

In his last seven starts, Peavy is 6-1 with a 1.13 ERA.

"You've got a good feeling each time he steps on the mound," Posey said.

Santiago Casilla pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 20 opportunities.

Josh Collmenter (10-8) gave up two runs and seven hits in eight innings.

Cubs 7, Reds 0: Jake Arrieta took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning before giving up Brandon Phillips' one-out double, the only blemish for the Chicago pitcher in a win over visiting Cincinnati.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 2 (12): Carlos Gomez walked, stole second and third and scored the go-ahead run on a bloop hit by rookie Hector Gomez in the 12th inning as visiting Milwaukee ended NL Central-leading St. Louis' three-game winning streak.

Rockies 10, Dodgers 6: Corey Dickerson homered, tripled and drove in four runs and Tyler Matzek pitched into the sixth inning by getting out of several tight spots as host Colorado snapped a seven-game skid with a win over NL West-leading Los Angeles.

White Sox 7, Royals 5: Kelvin Herrera and Wade Davis both gave up runs for the first time in nearly three months as Kansas City's dominant bullpen was touched up in a loss to visiting Chicago.

Pirates 4, Red Sox 0: Charlie Morton came off the disabled list to gain his first victory since July 2 as host Pittsburgh beat Boston for its ninth win in 11 games.

Rays 6, Yankees 1: Derek Jeter was hit on the arm by a Steve Geltz pitch in the eighth inning of the road loss, the fifth time a New York batter has been hit by a Tampa Bay pitcher in the past week.

Indians 4, Astros 2: Corey Kluber (16-9) struck out a career-high 14 in seven innings as visiting Cleveland halted its four-game losing streak by topping Houston.

Twins 4, Tigers 3: Aaron Hicks hit a two-out RBI single in the ninth inning, and host Minnesota rallied for a win over AL Central-leading Detroit.

Mets 9, Marlins 1: Wilmer Flores homered twice and drove in six runs for the second time this year and Ruben Tejada capped a four-run fourth inning with a two-run double as host New York routed Miami to end a three-game skid.

Mariners 13, Angels 2: Mike Zunino's two-run double keyed a four-run fifth inning as visiting Seattle climbed within a game of the second AL wild-card spot by routing Los Angeles.

Rangers 6, Athletics 3: Scott Kazmir made a two-run homer to Jake Smolinski and shortstop Jed Lowrie made an error that led to a pair of unearned runs as host Oakland lost to last-place Texas.

Padres 5, Phillies 4: Alexi Amarista had three hits, including a go-ahead two-run homer, to lead host San Diego over Philadelphia.

Orioles losers no more

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — This one goes a long way toward making up for all the losing seasons, the meaningless September games and meager crowds at Camden Yards for the final games on the schedule.

The Baltimore Orioles are AL East champions for the first time since 1997 and they marked the occasion with a celebration that lasted long after the final out of their clinching 8-2 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night.

"There are some great moments in your life," manager Buck Showalter said. "This ranks right up there."

Showalter arrived in 2010, in the midst of Baltimore's 13th consecutive losing season. The Orioles lost 93 games in 2011, then broke the franchise-record run of futility by going 93-69 in 2012 to make the postseason as a wild card.

"You never know who is going to win, but you have to be crazy to think they didn't have a good ball club," Toronto manager John Gibbons said. "They were in it two years ago. When you look at their team, it's a good ball club. Good solid pitching. They got gritty, hard-nosed type players."

A crowd of 35,279 cheered every out and stuck around an hour after the game to cheer the players, who returned to the field after celebrating with champagne and beer in the clubhouse.

Right fielder Nick Markakis began his career in 2006 and signed a six-year contract in 2009 in the midst of Baltimore's run of losing seasons. Covered with champagne and grinning broadly, he wouldn't have traded places with anyone.

"It's just a good feeling, an experience I'll never forget," he said. "To do it with these guys, it's on a different level. It's awesome and it's one of the reasons why I wanted to be part of this team and this organization."

The clinching victory featured an unlikely list of contributors, not at all unusual for a team that often dipped deep into its 25-man roster.

Ubaldo Jimenez (5-9) allowed two hits in five innings in his first start since Aug. 16; Steve Pearce, who has morphed from a bit player to a key starter; and Jimmy Paredes, who didn't join the team until Aug. 28.

Pearce provided the Orioles with the lead for good with a three-run drive off Drew Hutchison (10-12) in the first inning. He has 18 home runs this year, one more than he had in 290 games previously.

Paredes hit a solo shot in the second to make it 4-2. It was his second home run in 10 games with Baltimore.



SPORTS

Vikings bar Peterson
from all team activities

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Jayson Werth, right, dodges a stream of champagne from Adam LaRoche as the Washington Nationals celebrate their second division title in three years.

DAVID TUTT/AP

W NL EAST
CHAMPIONS AGAIN



Big night for Beltway teams

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AL EAST
LOSERS NO MORE



Center fielder Adam Jones celebrates with fans after the Baltimore Orioles beat the Toronto Blue Jays to clinch their first AL East championship since 1997.

PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

FSU benches Winston for first half against Clemson for offensive remark

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